Nr 3 1999
Pris 29:-

Walt Disney's

STÅL-KALLE

NYA ÄVENTYR!

CROSSFIRE

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CROSSFIRE

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Walt Disney
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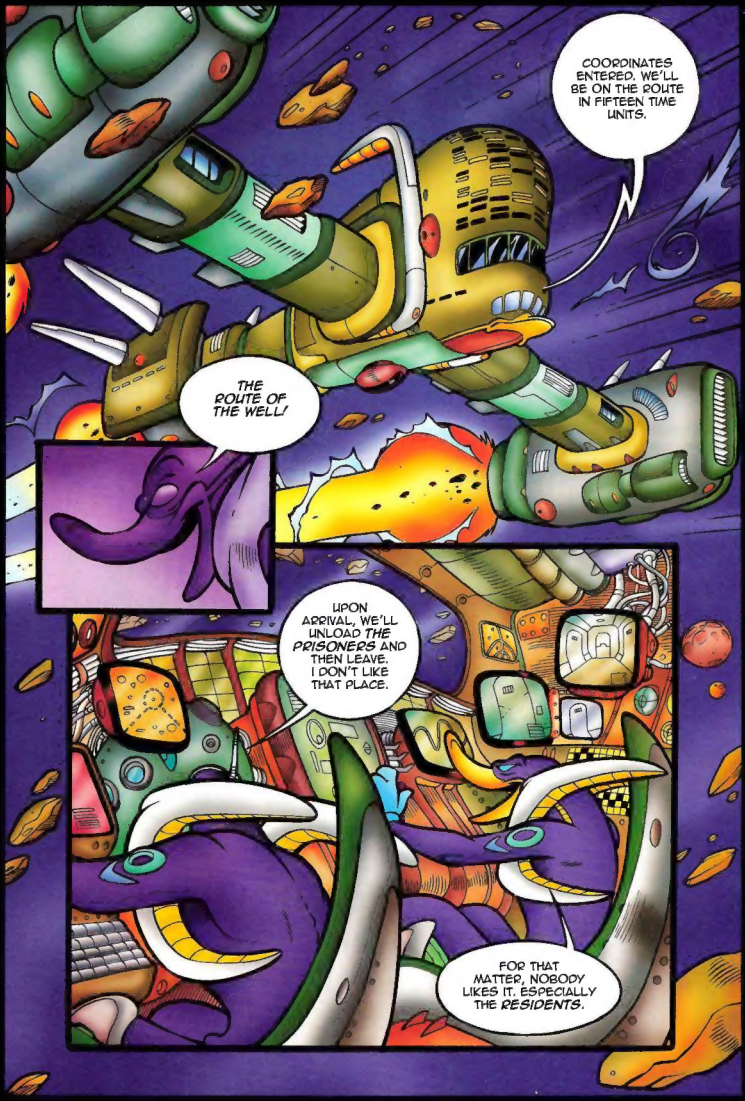
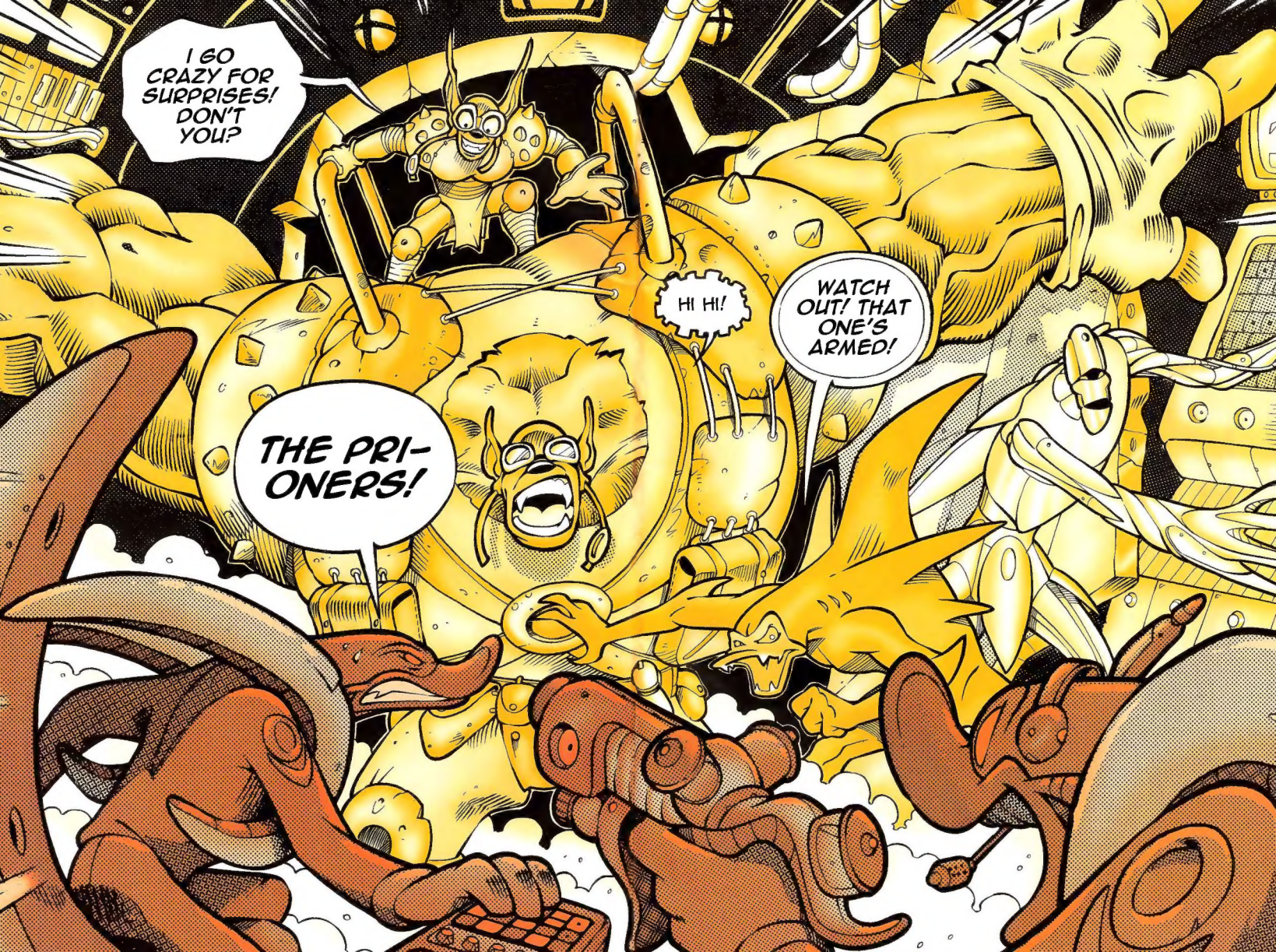
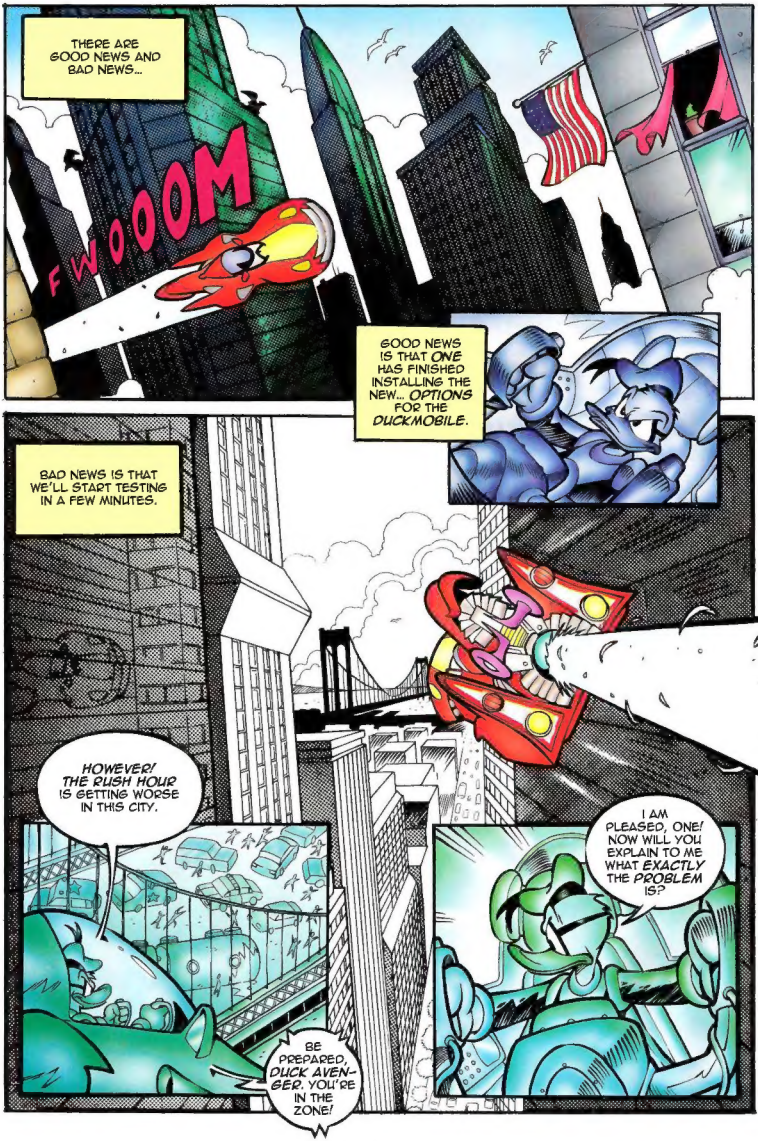
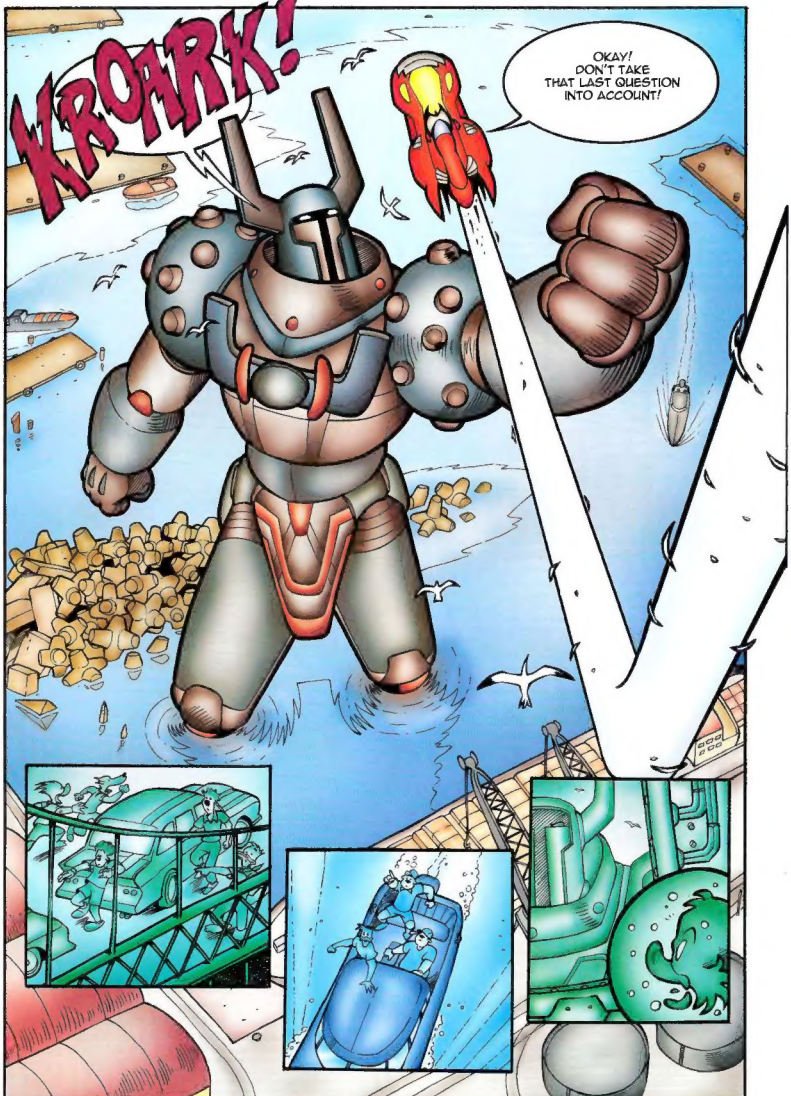
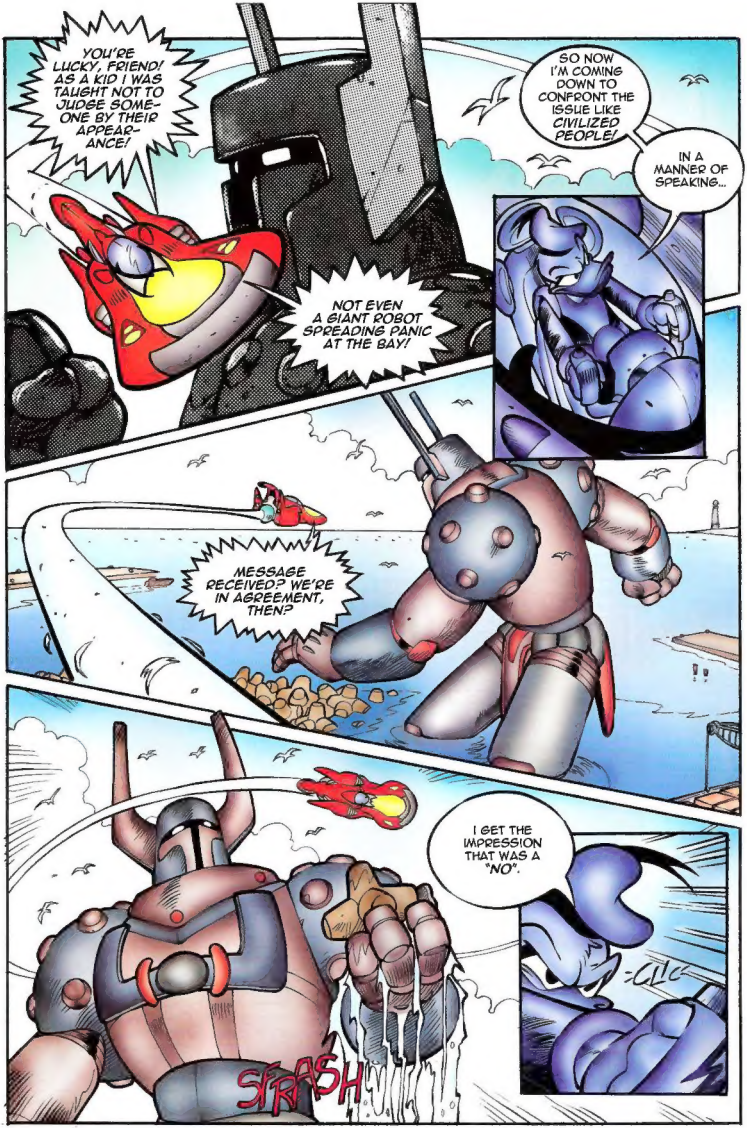

COORDINATES ENTERED. WE'LL BE ON THE ROUTE IN FIFTEEN TIME UNITS.
THE ROUTE OF THE WELL!
UPON ARRIVAL, WE'LL UNLOAD THE PRISONERS AND THEN LEAVE. I DON'T LIKE THAT PLACE.
FOR THAT MATTER, NOBODY LIKES IT. ESPECIALLY THE RESIDENTS.

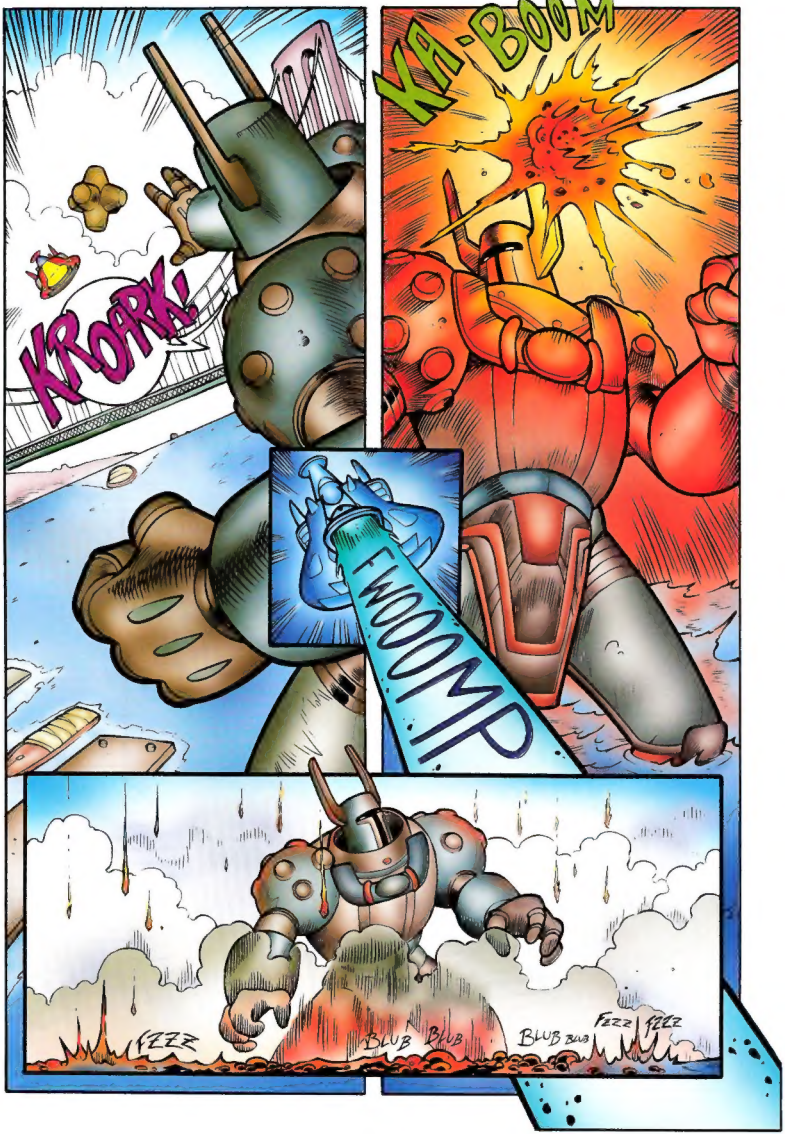
CRIMINALS, RENEGADES, REBELS, MUTANTS... THE UNIVERSE'S WORST SCUM ARE ALL ON THAT ARTIFICIAL PLANET. THE EVRON EMPIRE'S MOST SECURE PRISON.
EH?
I SAID: THE EVRON EMPIRE'S MOST...
QUIET!
WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING.
WHAT KIND OF SOUND? A BUZZ?
NO.
A SQUEAK, THEN?
NOT THAT EITHER. IT WAS A SORT OF... IT WAS LIKE...
SK-K-KRASH
SOMETHING LIKE THIS, PERHAPS?
JUST LIKE THAT!


I GO CRAZY FOR SURPRISES! DON'T YOU?
HI HI!
WATCH OUT! THAT ONE'S ARMED!
THE PRI- ONERS!

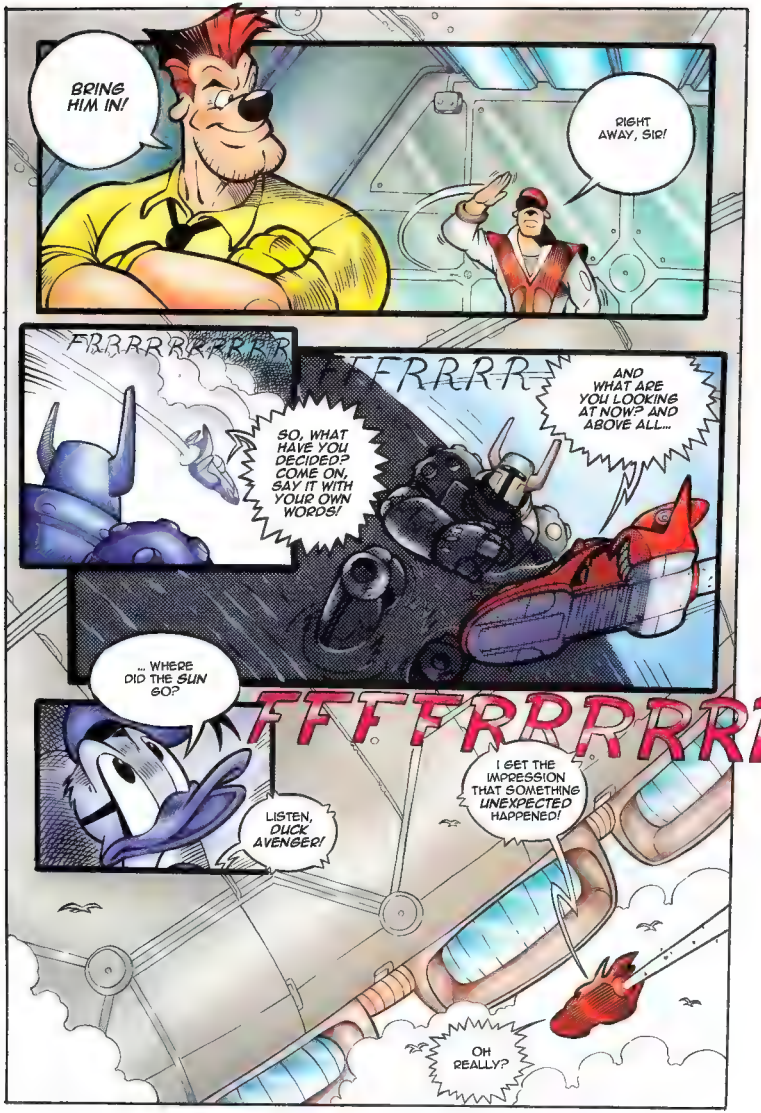

THERE ARE GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS...
FWOOOM
GOOD NEWS IS THAT ONE HAS FINISHED INSTALLING THE NEW... OPTIONS FOR THE DUCKMOBILE.
BAD NEWS IS THAT WE'LL START TESTING IN A FEW MINUTES.
HOWEVER! THE RUSH HOUR IS GETTING WORSE IN THIS CITY.
I AM PLEASED, ONE! NOW WILL YOU EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT EXACTLY THE PROBLEM IS?
BE PREPARED, DUCK AVENGER. YOU'RE IN THE ZONE!

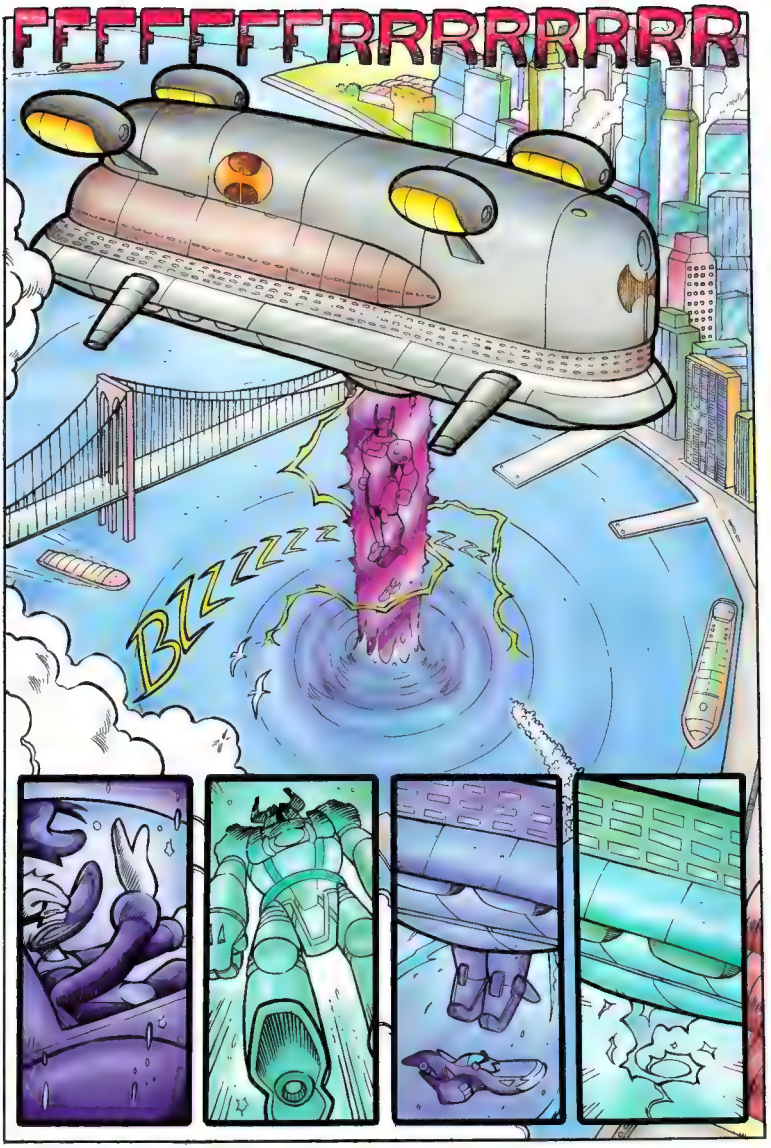

KROARK!
OKAY! DON'T TAKE THAT LAST QUESTION INTO ACCOUNT!


YOU'RE LUCKY, FRIEND! AS A KID I WAS TAUGHT NOT TO JUDGE SOME-ONE BY THEIR APPEAR-ANCE!
NOT EVEN A GIANT ROBOT SPREADING PANIC AT THE BAY!
SO NOW I'M COMING DOWN TO CONFRONT THE ISSUE LIKE CIVILIZED PEOPLE!
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING...
MESSAGE RECEIVED? WE'RE IN AGREEMENT, THEN?
I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT WAS A "NO".
SPLASH


KROARK!
KA-BOOM
FWOOMP!!
FZZZ
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
BLUB
FZZZ
FZZZ

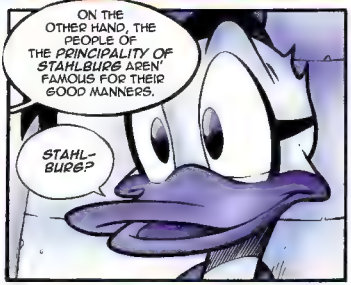
WATER...
... WATER...
... SHOTFIRER...
... FIRE!
KA-BOOM
SO, HAVE YOU HAD ENOUGH?
YES, DUCK AVENGER, THAT'S ENOUGH.

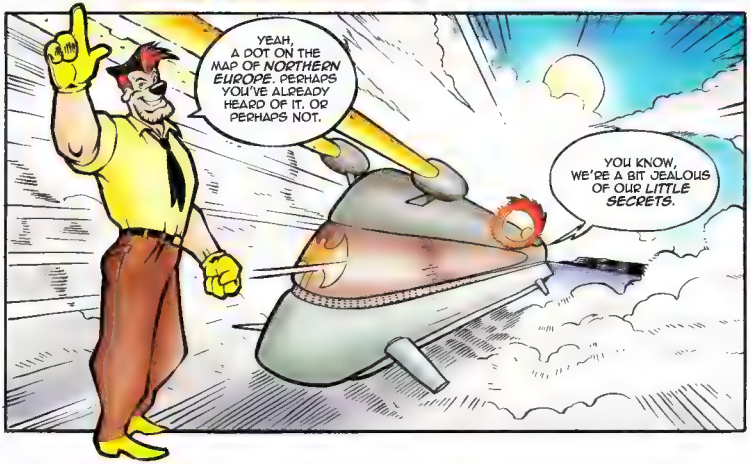

BRING HIM IN!
RIGHT AWAY, SIR!
FRRRRRRRRRR
FFERRRR
SO, WHAT HAVE YOU DECIDED? COME ON, SAY IT WITH YOUR OWN WORDS!
AND WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT NOW? AND ABOVE ALL...
... WHERE DID THE SUN GO?
FFFFRRRRRRR
LISTEN, DUCK AVENGER!
I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT SOMETHING UNEXPECTED HAPPENED!
OH REALLY?


FFFFFFFFRRRRRRRRR
BZZZZZZ

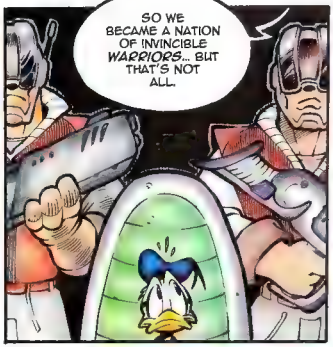
I GUESS I OWE YOU AN EXPLANATION.
REALLY? SUCH KINDNESS TOUCHES ME.
HE HE! I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAD SOME DISAGREEMENTS WITH THE BOYS.

SOMETIMES THEY CAN BE A BIT ROUGH, BUT YOU HAVE TO FORGIVE THEM. THEY'RE NOT USED TO HAVING GUESTS!
OKAY, WE'RE THE BEST OF FRIENDS!

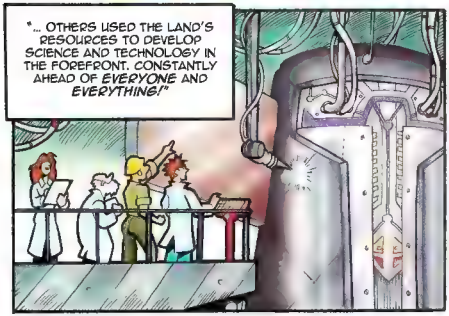

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PEOPLE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF STAHLBURG AREN' FAMOUS FOR THEIR GOOD MANNERS.
STAHL-BURG?

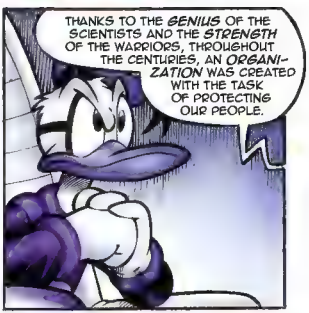

YEAH, A DOT ON THE MAP OF NORTHERN EUROPE. PERHAPS YOU'VE ALREADY HEARD OF IT. OR PERHAPS NOT.
YOU KNOW, WE'RE A BIT JEALOUS OF OUR LITTLE SECRETS.

IT'S A HARD, COLD AND INHOSPITABLE LAND...
"THAT'S WHY THE PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SO STRONG AND TENACIOUS."
AND YET, THAT SAME LAND CAN ALSO BE GENEROUS. VERY GENEROUS.
BENEATH THE SOIL OF STAHLBURG THERE ARE HIDDEN MINES OF IRON, COPPER, ZINC, GOLD...
IMMENSE RICHES!
"WE HAD TO LEARN TO DEFEND THEM. LUCKILY WE WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO DO IT."


SO WE BECAME A NATION OF INVINCIBLE WARRIORS... BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.

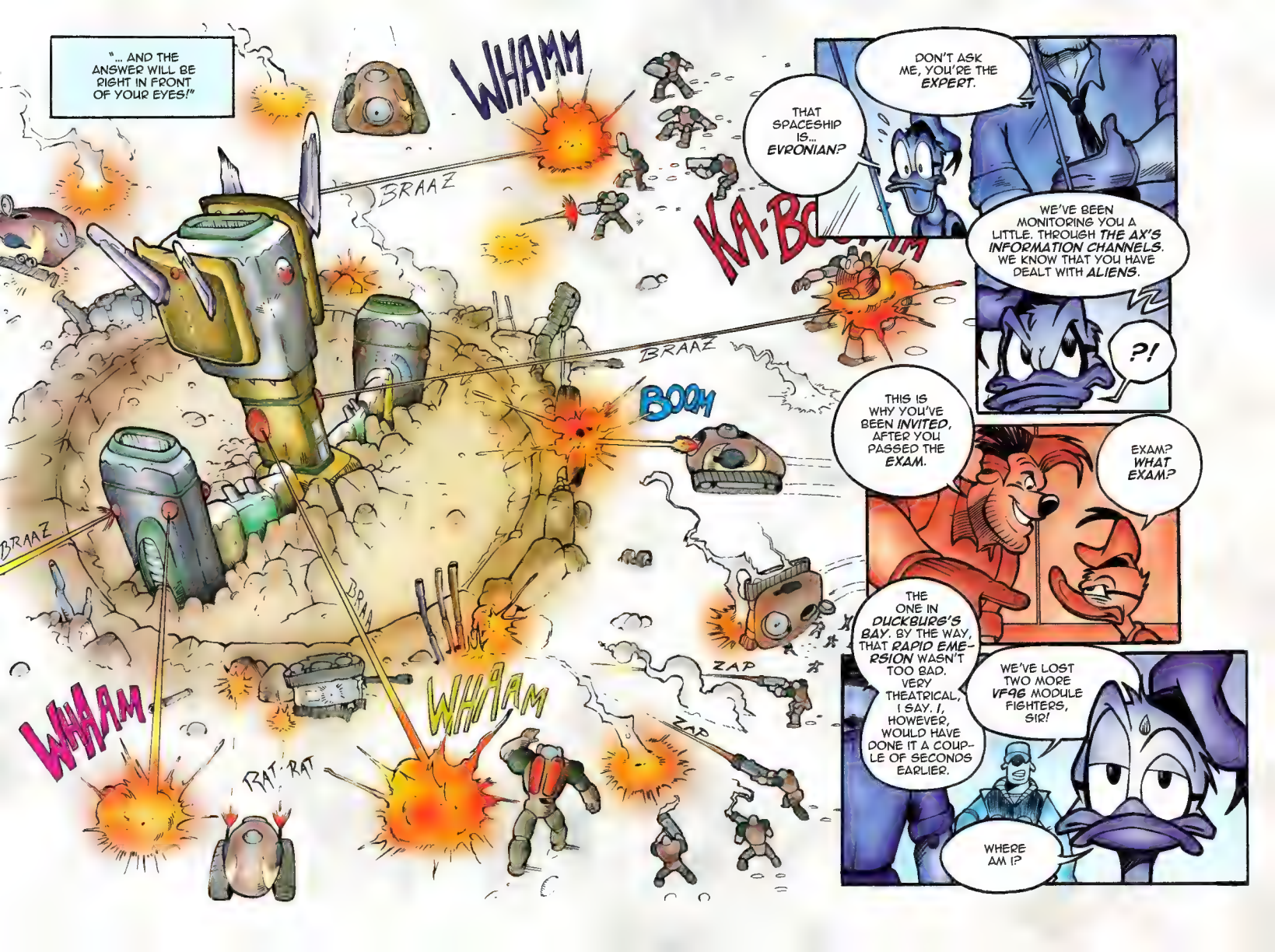
BECAUSE WHILE SOME WERE STUDYING THE SECRETS OF STRATEGY AND THE ART OF FIGHTING...


"... OTHERS USED THE LAND'S RESOURCES TO DEVELOP SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE FOREFRONT. CONSTANTLY AHEAD OF EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING!"

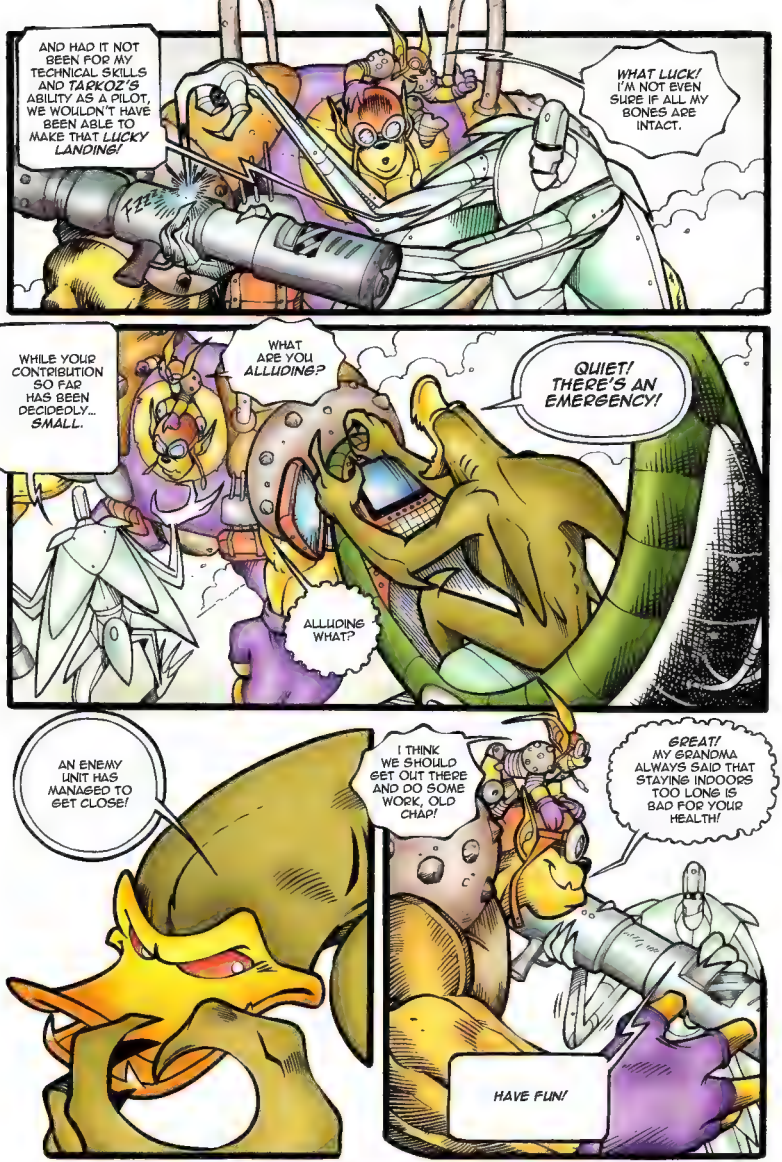

THANKS TO THE GENIUS OF THE SCIENTISTS AND THE STRENGTH OF THE WARRIORS, THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES, AN ORGANIZATION WAS CREATED WITH THE TASK OF PROTECTING OUR PEOPLE.

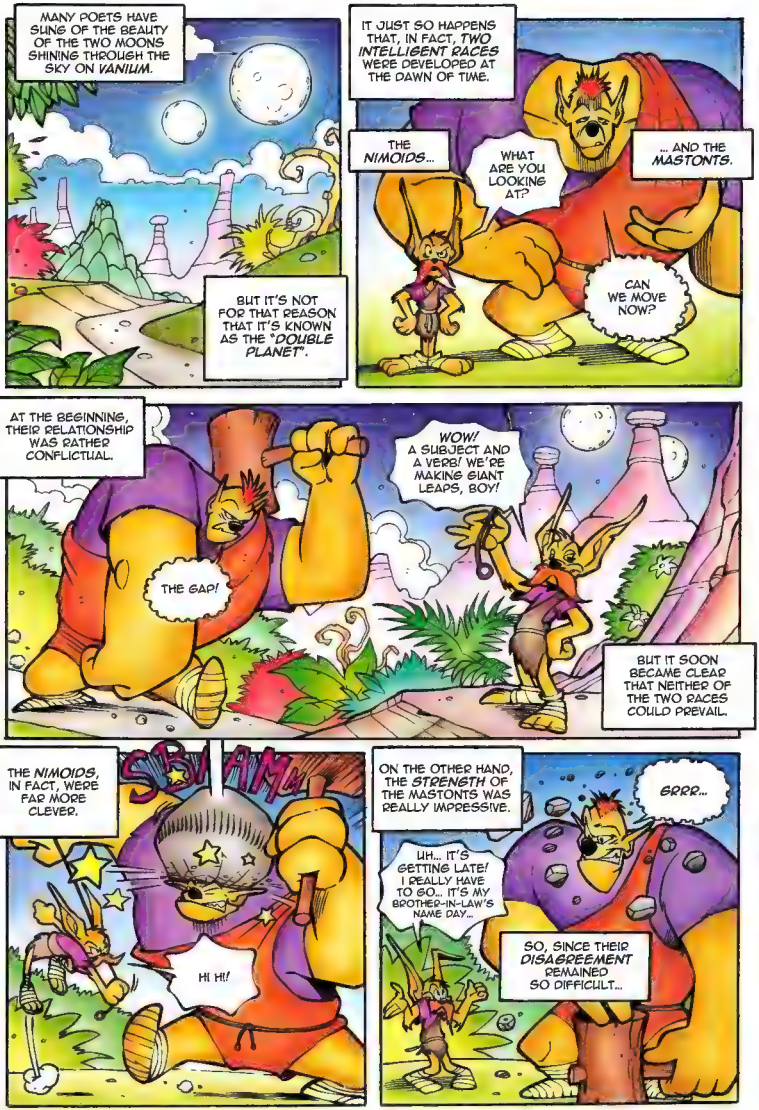
AN ORGANIZATION CALLED THE AX! I, VICTOR DARKO, HAVE THE HONOR OF LEADING IT!
CONGRATULATIONS, WHAT AN INTERESTING STORY! IT LACK JUST ONE DETAIL...

ATTENTION! CODE BLUE. THIRTY SECONDS TO OBJECTIVE.
... WHAT DO I GOT TO DO WITH THAT?
HAVE A LITTLE PATIENCE, SUPER-HERO.

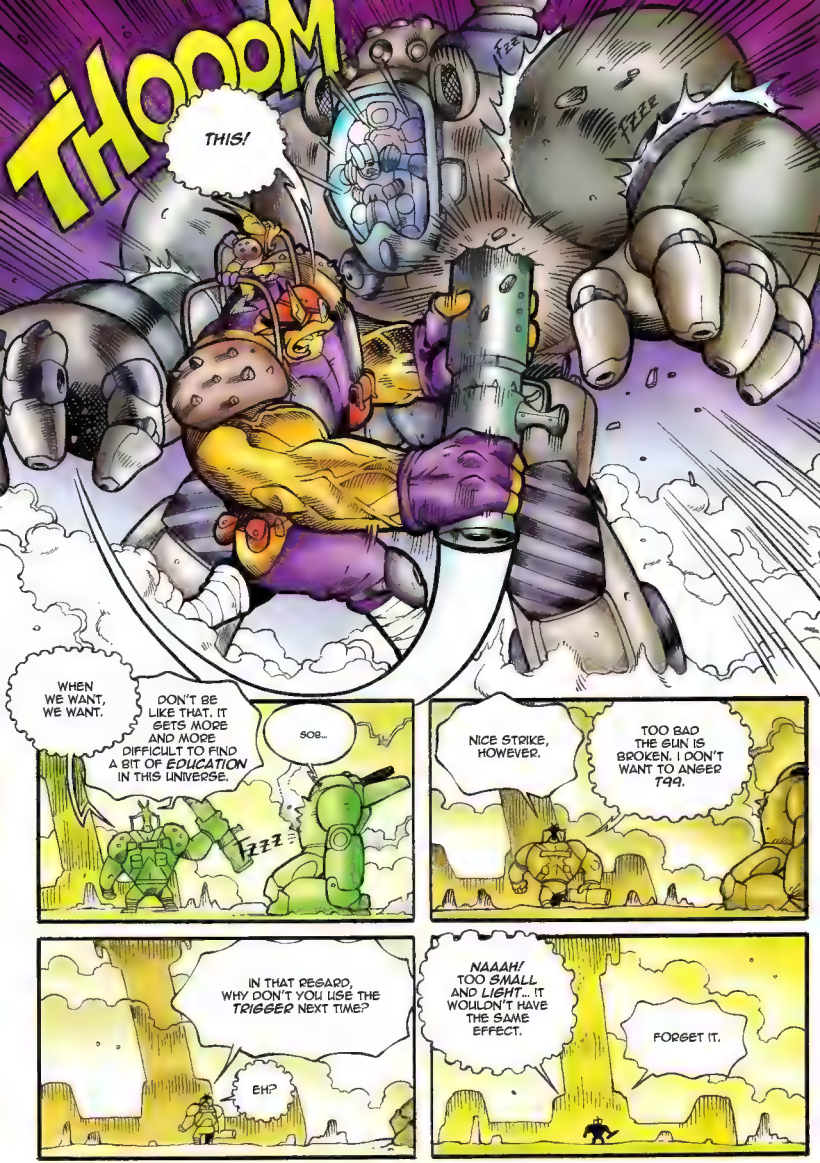

"... AND THE ANSWER WILL BE RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES!"
WHAMM
BRAAZ
BRAAZ
BOOM
BRAAZ
WHAAM
WHAAM
RAT-RAT
ZAP
ZAP
THAT SPACESHIP IS... EVRONIAN?
DON'T ASK ME, YOU'RE THE EXPERT.
WE'VE BEEN MONITORING YOU A LITTLE. THROUGH THE AX'S INFORMATION CHANNELS. WE KNOW THAT YOU HAVE DEALT WITH ALIENS.
?!
THIS IS WHY YOU'VE BEEN INVITED, AFTER YOU PASSED THE EXAM.
EXAM? WHAT EXAM?
THE ONE IN DUCKBURG'S BAY. BY THE WAY, THAT RAPID EMERSION WASN'T TOO BAD. VERY THEATRICAL, I SAY. I, HOWEVER, WOULD HAVE DONE IT A COUPLE OF SECONDS EARLIER.
WE'VE LOST TWO MORE VF9E MODULE FIGHTERS, SIR!
WHERE AM I?

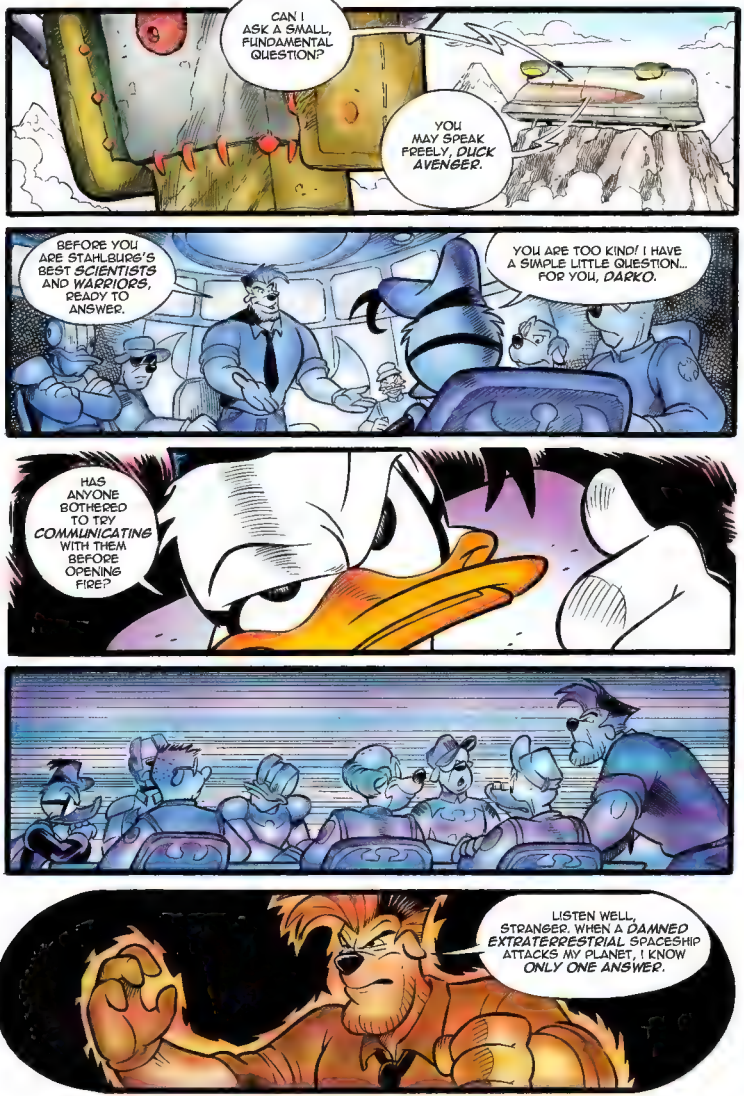
YOU KNOW WHAT I LIKE THE MOST ABOUT EARTH?
THE HOSPI-TALITY!
WE HAD NO CHOICE, YAK! THIS IS THE ONLY PLANET WE COULD REACH WHERE THE SENSORS FOUND TETRANIUM DEPOSITS! THIS IS THE REGION.
IZZZ
WITHOUT TETRANIUM WE CAN'T REPAIR THE ROUTE STABILIZER, DESTROYED BY THAT CLUMSY BEAST.
T99, LET ME REMIND YOU THAT IT WAS ONLY FOR THE COURAGE AND STRENGTH OF KURG THAT WE BEAT THOSE EVRONIAN GUARDS!
WHAT BEAST?
HI HI! THAT WAS FUN!
QUIET, BEAST!


AND HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR MY TECHNICAL SKILLS AND TARKOZ'S ABILITY AS A PILOT, WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE THAT LUCKY LANDING!
WHAT LUCK! I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF ALL MY BONES ARE INTACT.
WHILE YOUR CONTRIBUTION SO FAR HAS BEEN DECIDEDLY... SMALL.
WHAT ARE YOU ALLUDING?
QUIET! THERE'S AN EMERGENCY!
ALLUDING WHAT?
AN ENEMY UNIT HAS MANAGED TO GET CLOSE!
I THINK WE SHOULD GET OUT THERE AND DO SOME WORK, OLD CHAP!
GREAT! MY GRANDMA ALWAYS SAID THAT STAYING INDOORS TOO LONG IS BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH!
HAVE FUN!

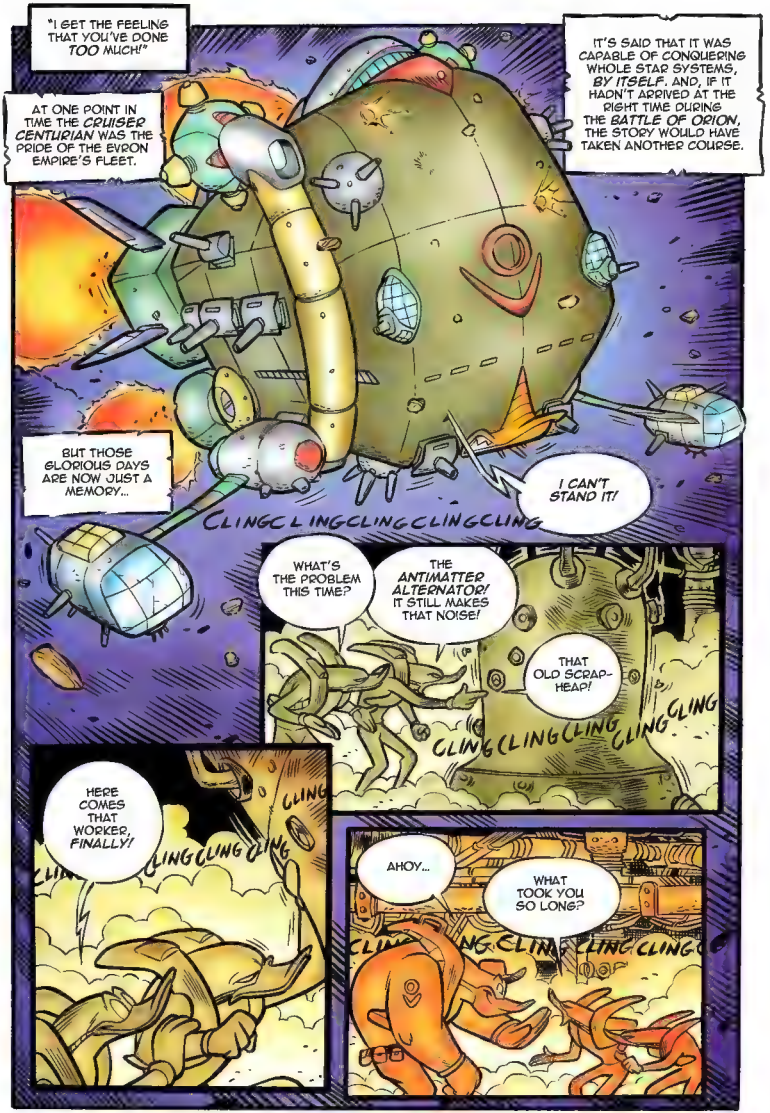

MANY POETS HAVE SUNG OF THE BEAUTY OF THE TWO MOONS SHINING THROUGH THE SKY ON VANIUM.
BUT IT'S NOT FOR THAT REASON THAT IT'S KNOWN AS THE "DOUBLE PLANET".
IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT, IN FACT, TWO INTELLIGENT RACES WERE DEVELOPED AT THE DAWN OF TIME.
THE NIMOIDS...
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
... AND THE MASTONTS.
CAN WE MOVE NOW?
AT THE BEGINNING, THEIR RELATIONSHIP WAS RATHER CONFLICTUAL.
THE GAP!
WOW! A SUBJECT AND A VERB! WE'RE MAKING GIANT LEAPS, BOY!
BUT IT SOON BECAME CLEAR THAT NEITHER OF THE TWO RACES COULD PREVAIL.
THE NIMOIDS, IN FACT, WERE FAR MORE CLEVER.
SBYAM!
HI HI!
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE STRENGTH OF THE MASTONTS WAS REALLY IMPRESSIVE.
ERRR...
UH... IT'S GETTING LATE! I REALLY HAVE TO GO... IT'S MY BROTHER-IN-LAW'S NAME DAY...
SO, SINCE THEIR DISAGREEMENT REMAINED SO DIFFICULT...

... THEY DECIDED TO GET ALONG. FOR MILLENNIA THE MASTONTS HAVE LIVED IN SYMBIOSIS WITH THE NIMOIDS. AND SO THE TWO RACES HAVE REIGNED IN HARMONY, PEACE, AMITY, COLLABORATION AND...
IDIOCY! YOU WILL NEVER CEASE TO AMAZE ME!
I'M INSULTED.
WE'RE HERE BECAUSE OF YOU! WAS THERE REALLY ANY NEED TO BREAK THE CONTROL PANEL?
YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SO... MATERIAL!
BUT IT SUITS YOU WHEN...
SORRY. NOBODY SAID THAT AN EVRONIAN'S HEAD WAS SO HARD!
STOP WHERE YOU ARE! SURRENDER, AND NOBODY WILL GET HURT!
HEY, CAN'T YOU SEE THAT WE'RE TALKING?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY GRANDMA DID WHEN SHE WAS INTERRUPTED?


THOOOM
THIS!
FZZZ
FZZZ
WHEN WE WANT, WE WANT.
DON'T BE LIKE THAT. IT GETS MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT TO FIND A BIT OF *EDUCATION* IN THIS UNIVERSE.
SOB...
FZZZ
NICE STRIKE, HOWEVER.
TOO BAD THE GUN IS BROKEN. I DON'T WANT TO ANGER T99.
IN THAT REGARD, WHY DON'T YOU USE THE *TRIGGER* NEXT TIME?
EH?
NAAAH! TOO *SMALL* AND *LIGHT*... IT WOULDN'T HAVE THE SAME EFFECT.
FORGET IT.


CAN I ASK A SMALL, FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION?
YOU MAY SPEAK FREELY, DUCK AVENGER.
BEFORE YOU ARE STAHLBURG'S BEST SCIENTISTS AND WARRIORS, READY TO ANSWER.
YOU ARE TOO KIND! I HAVE A SIMPLE LITTLE QUESTION... FOR YOU, DARKO.
HAS ANYONE BOTHERED TO TRY COMMUNICATING WITH THEM BEFORE OPENING FIRE?
LISTEN WELL, STRANGER. WHEN A DAMNED EXTRATERRESTRIAL SPACESHIP ATTACKS MY PLANET, I KNOW ONLY ONE ANSWER.

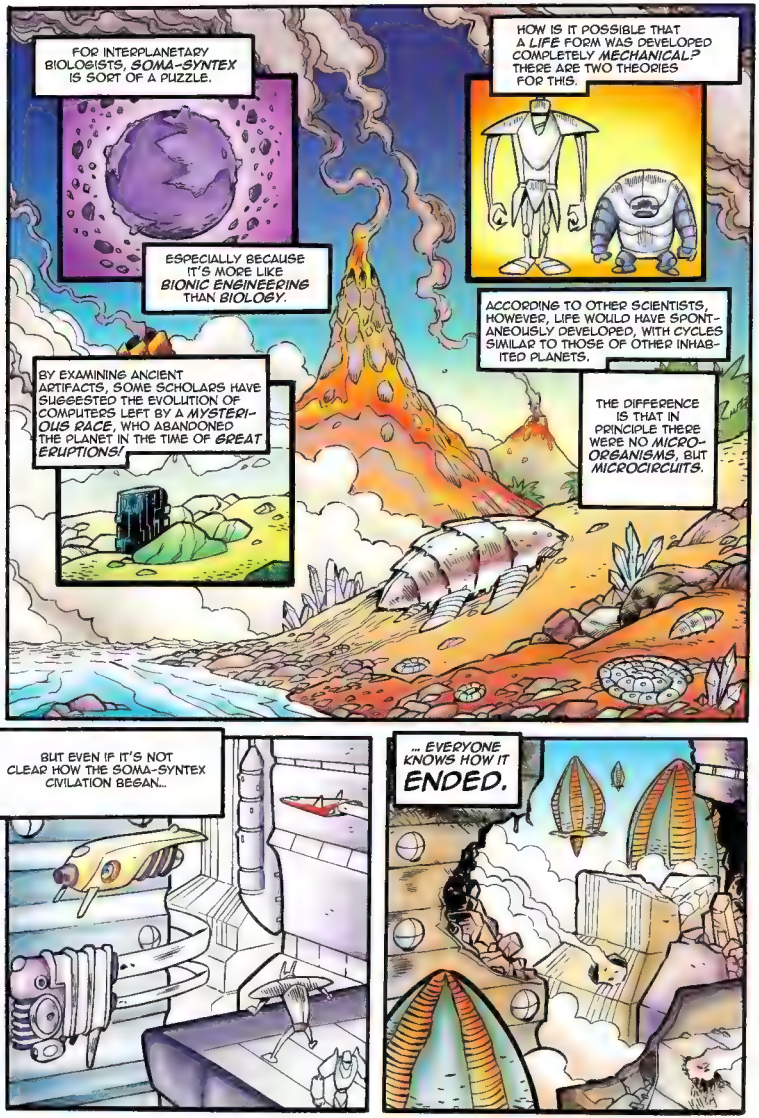
THIS!
BOOOM
TSK!
JUST BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY ONE YOU KNOW DOESN'T MEAN IT'S THE RIGHT ONE!
DON'T LECTURE ME, DUCK.
I DIDN'T ASK TO COME HERE.
NOBODY HAS EVER TALKED TO ME LIKE THAT.
I'M BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'RE REALLY ON THE BALL, YOU KNOW?
YES, I KNOW.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?
FOR NOW, NOTHING...

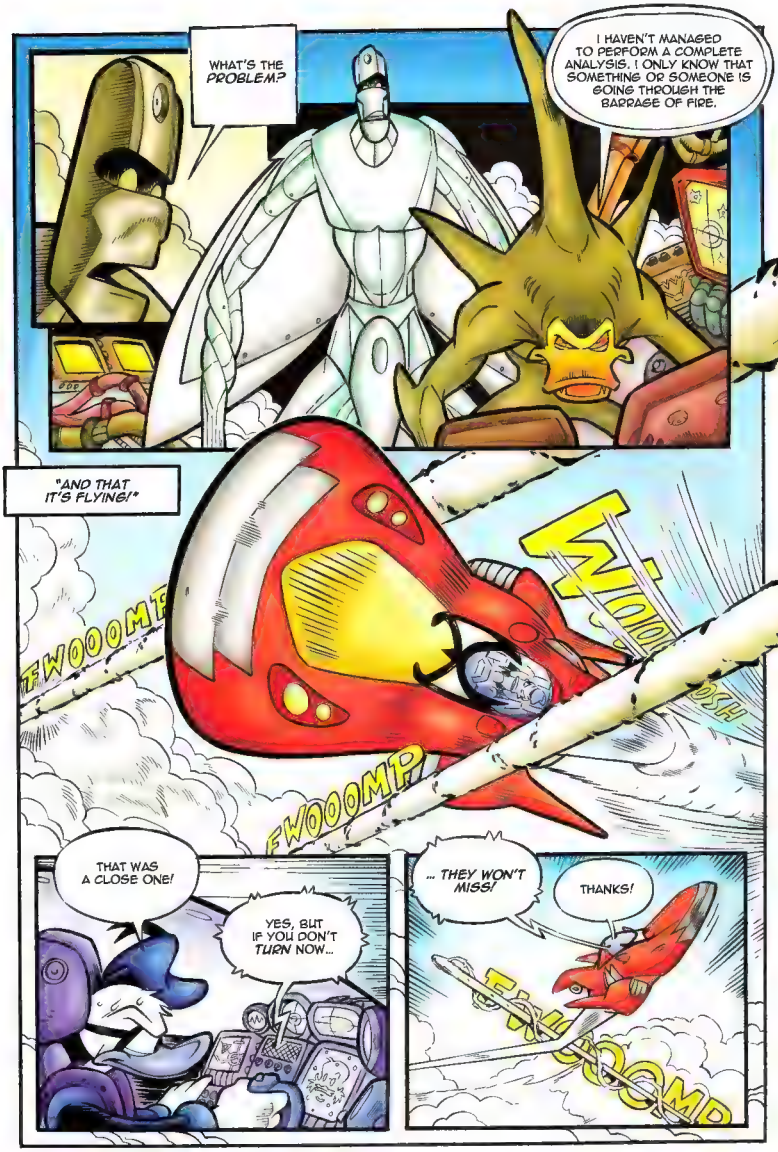

"I GET THE FEELING THAT YOU'VE DONE TOO MUCH!"
AT ONE POINT IN TIME THE CRUISER CENTURIAN WAS THE PRIDE OF THE EVRON EMPIRE'S FLEET.
IT'S SAID THAT IT WAS CAPABLE OF CONQUERING WHOLE STAR SYSTEMS, BY ITSELF. AND, IF IT HADN'T ARRIVED AT THE RIGHT TIME DURING THE BATTLE OF ORION, THE STORY WOULD HAVE TAKEN ANOTHER COURSE.
BUT THOSE GLORIOUS DAYS ARE NOW JUST A MEMORY...
I CAN'T STAND IT!
CLINGCLINGCLINGCLINGCLING
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM THIS TIME?
THE ANTIMATTER ALTERNATOR! IT STILL MAKES THAT NOISE!
THAT OLD SCRAP-HEAP!
CLINGCLINGCLING CLING CLING
HERE COMES THAT WORKER, FINALLY!
CLING
CLINGCLING CLING
AHOY...
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
CLING CLING CLING

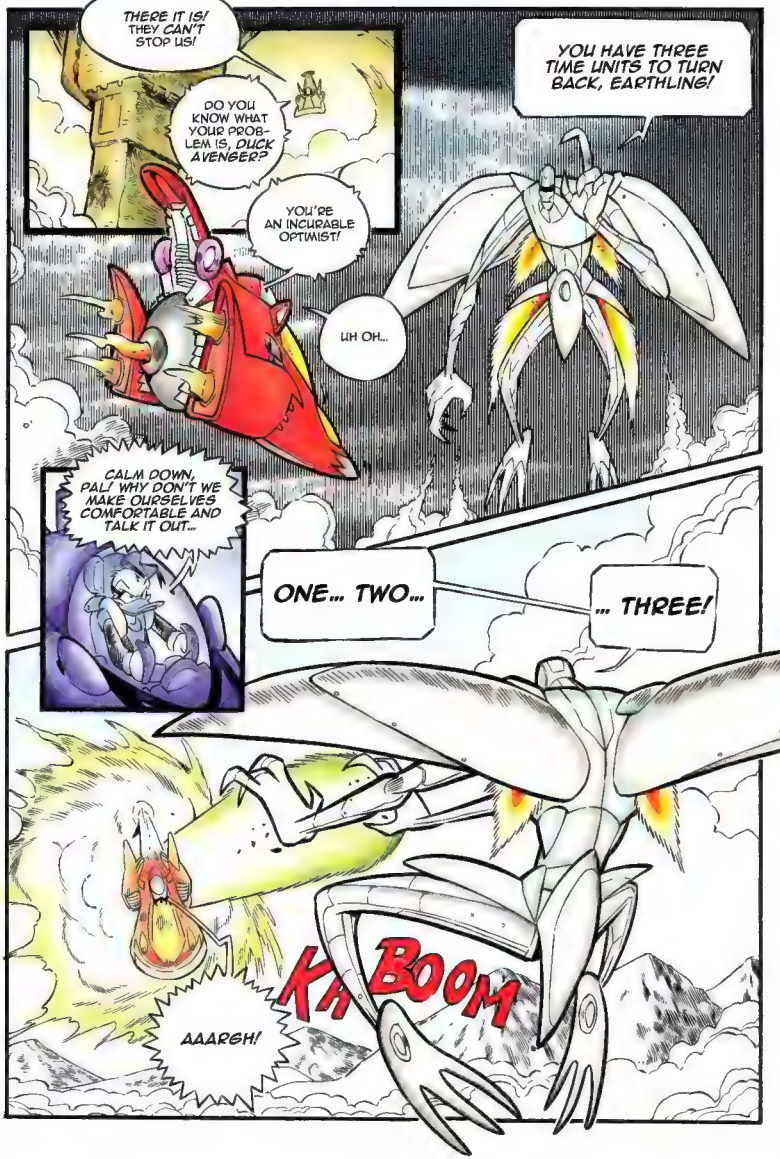
WELL?
CLINGGLING CLING
UM...
NOTHING SERIOUS. IT SHOULD WORK WITH THE STANDARD PROCEDURE.
OOOH...
CLINGCLINGCLINGCLINGCLING
TUM
CALL ME IF IT STILL BOTHERS YOU.
THANKS!
THIS SHIP IS A WRECK!
QUIET! DO YOU WANT TO GET IN TROUBLE? IMAGINE IF ADMIRAL ARSON IS LISTENING! YOU KNOW HOW PROUD HE IS OF THE...
RELAX! HE'S INSIDE OF HIS DEN WITH ALL THE MINIONS. AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT I SAY?

"HE MUST HAVE SOMETHING BIG ON HIS MIND!"
GLORY IS OUR *OBJECTIVE!* THE PRICE IS RIGHTFULLY OURS, BUT WE'VE BEEN DENIED IT FOR TOO LONG!
NOW WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE IT, ON THE *BATTLEFIELD!*
AND TO PROVE THAT INSIDE OF THIS LEGENDARY CRUISER ARE THE REAL *WARRIORS* OF THE *EVRONIAN EMPIRE*, NOW SOFTENED AND DECAYING!
THE ESCAPE OF FOUR *DANGEROUS REBELS*, CONDEMNED FOR LEADING THEIR PEOPLE AGAINST *EVRON*, WHICH OCCURRED IN THIS SPACE SECTOR IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY!
WE PICKED UP THE ESCAPE POD OF THE PRISON SHIP'S CREW. MOREOVER, THEY'RE RATHER BATTERED.
AND SO THIS "RECOVERY" IS RIGHTFULLY OURS!

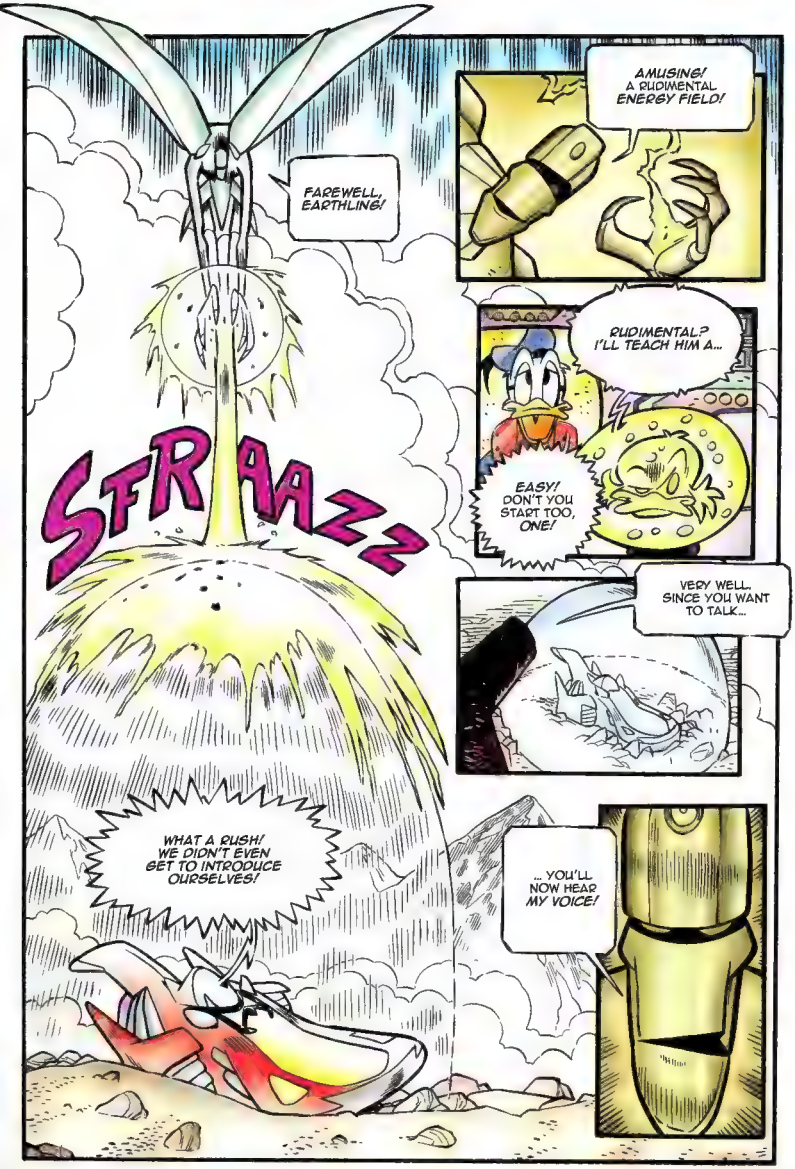
AND IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT THESE SCUM ENDED UP RIGHT ON EARTH, A PLANET THAT THE INCAPABLE EVRONIAN ARMY HAVE NOT YET MANAGED TO TAKE OVER!
WHY NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION AND REMEDY THIS DISGRACE?
THE LOOK IN YOUR EYES TELL ME THAT YOU DON'T MIND THIS IDEA. YOU THINK THIS ESCAPE WAS A STROKE OF LUCK, RIGHT?
BUT YOU'RE WRONG. LUCK HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
THOSE CRIMINALS THINK THEY'VE ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT FEAT. THAT THEY'VE DECIDED THEIR FATE. BUT NO!
THEIR ESCAPE AND ARRIVAL ON EARTH WAS ALL PART OF MY PRECISE PLAN!
POOR FOOLS, WHO KNOWS WHAT FACES THEY'D MAKE IF THEY KNEW THAT...
... HIDDEN AMONG THEM THERE'S A TRAITOR!

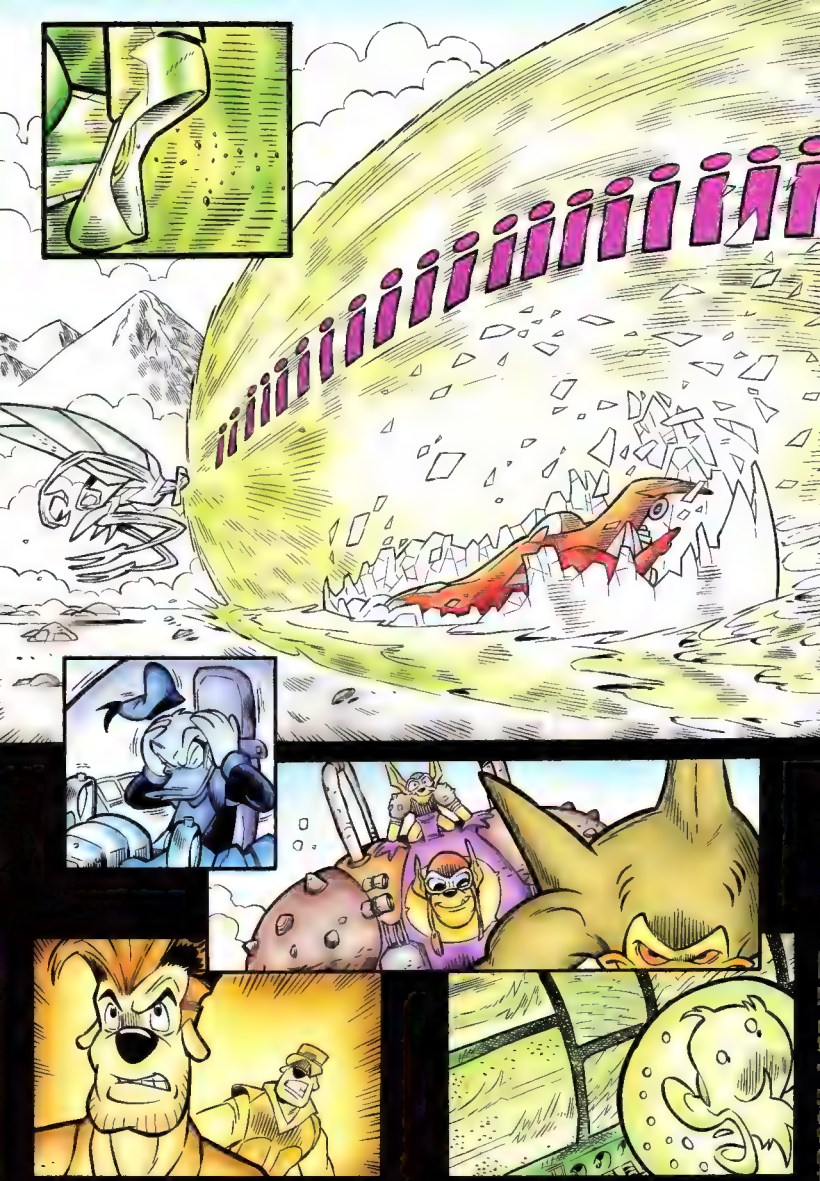

FOR INTERPLANETARY BIOLOGISTS, SOMA-SYNTEX IS SORT OF A PUZZLE.
ESPECIALLY BECAUSE IT'S MORE LIKE BIONIC ENGINEERING THAN BIOLOGY.
BY EXAMINING ANCIENT ARTIFACTS, SOME SCHOLARS HAVE SUGGESTED THE EVOLUTION OF COMPUTERS LEFT BY A MYSTERIOUS RACE, WHO ABANDONED THE PLANET IN THE TIME OF GREAT ERUPTIONS!
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE THAT A LIFE FORM WAS DEVELOPED COMPLETELY MECHANICAL? THERE ARE TWO THEORIES FOR THIS.
ACCORDING TO OTHER SCIENTISTS, HOWEVER, LIFE WOULD HAVE SPONTANEOUSLY DEVELOPED, WITH CYCLES SIMILAR TO THOSE OF OTHER INHABITED PLANETS.
THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT IN PRINCIPLE THERE WERE NO MICRO-ORGANISMS, BUT MICROCIRCUITS.
BUT EVEN IF IT'S NOT CLEAR HOW THE SOMA-SYNTEX CIVILATION BEGAN...
... EVERYONE KNOWS HOW IT ENDED.

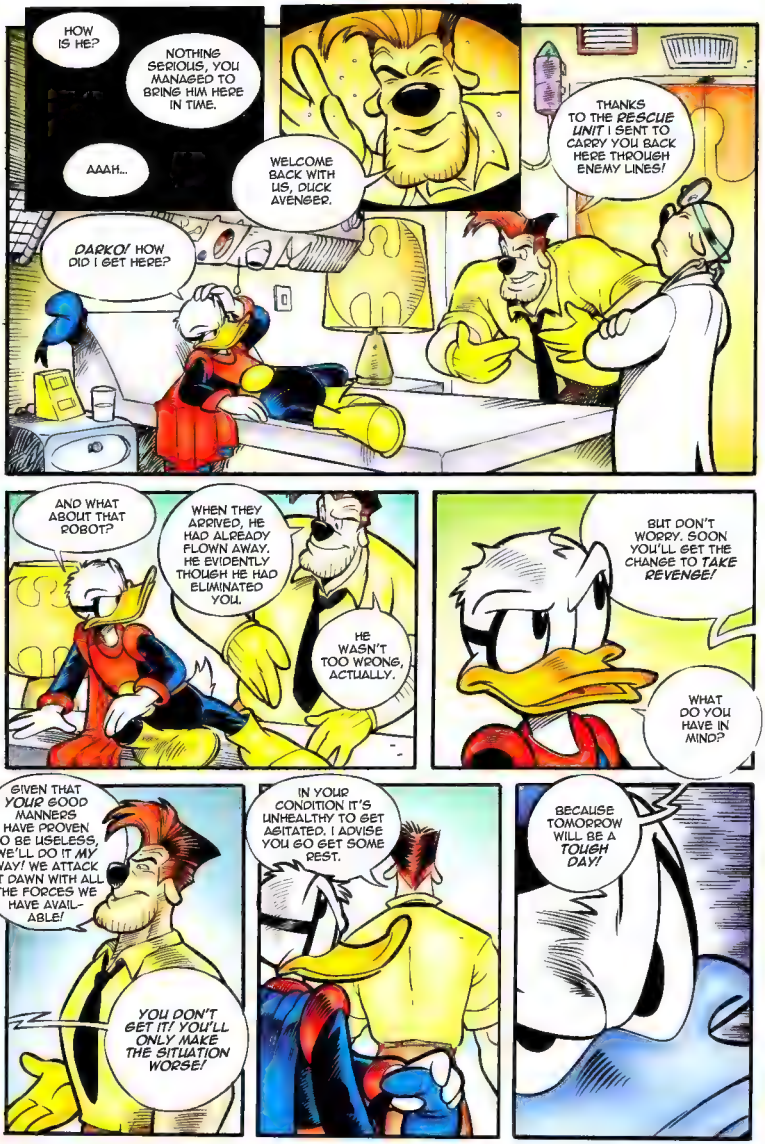

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
I HAVEN'T MANAGED TO PERFORM A COMPLETE ANALYSIS. I ONLY KNOW THAT SOMETHING OR SOMEONE IS GOING THROUGH THE BARRAGE OF FIRE.
"AND THAT IT'S FLYING!"
FWOOOMP
FWOOOMP
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE!
YES, BUT IF YOU DON'T TURN NOW...
... THEY WON'T MISS!
THANKS!


THERE IT IS! THEY CAN'T STOP US!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS, DUCK AVENGER?
YOU'RE AN INCURABLE OPTIMIST!
UH OH..
YOU HAVE THREE TIME UNITS TO TURN BACK, EARTHLING!
CALM DOWN, PAL! WHY DON'T WE MAKE OURSELVES COMFORTABLE AND TALK IT OUT...
ONE... TWO...
... THREE!
KA-BOOM
AAARGH!

NOW WE KNOW ONE THING ABOUT HIM. HE DOESN'T LIKE CONVERSATIONS.
BUT HE KNOWS HOW TO MAKE HIMSELF CLEAR!
LISTEN TO ME! I DIDN'T COME HERE TO HURT YOU!
VERY WISE! IT WOULD BE A WASTED EFFORT!
HE'S PREPARING TO STRIKE!
THEN I'LL PREPARE TO GET STRUCK!
FZZZZZ

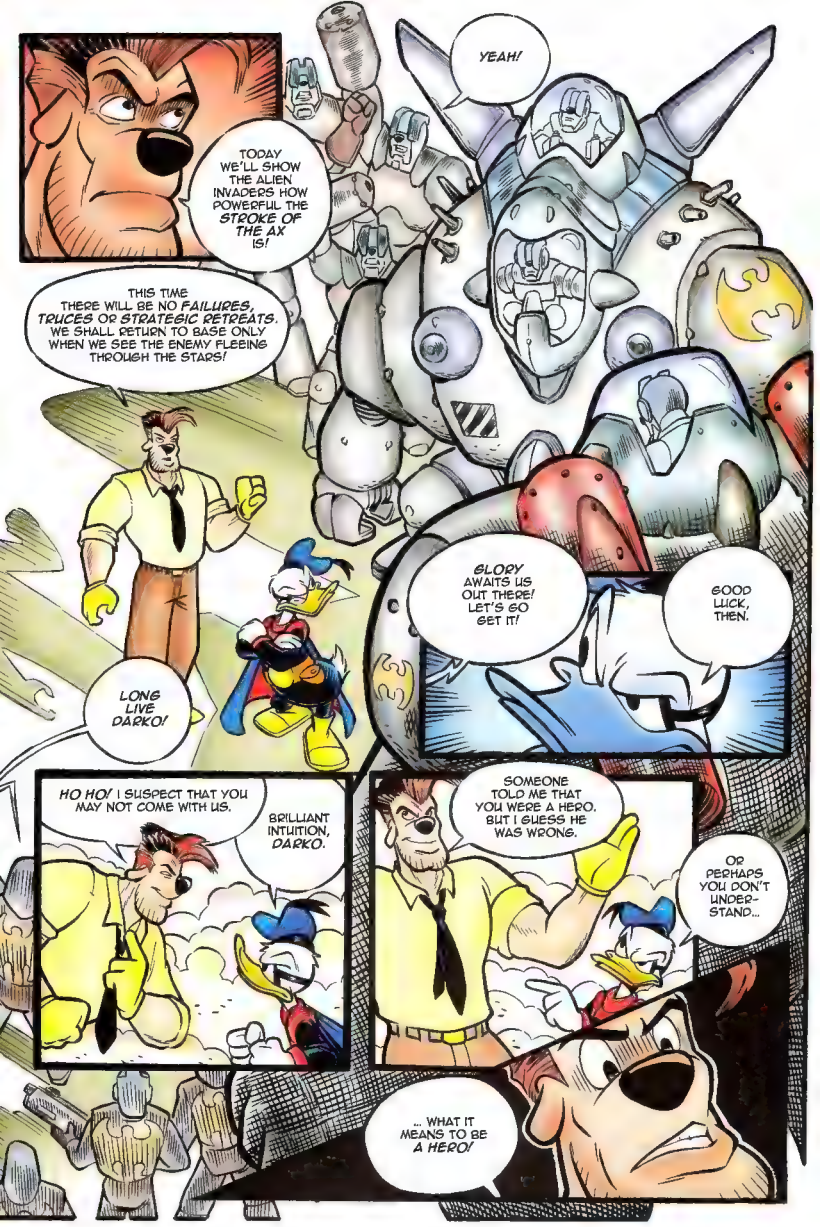

FAREWELL, EARTHLING!
SFRAAZZ
WHAT A RUSH! WE DIDN'T EVEN GET TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES!
AMUSING! A RUDIMENTAL ENERGY FIELD!
RUDIMENTAL? I'LL TEACH HIM A...
EASY! DON'T YOU START TOO, ONE!
VERY WELL. SINCE YOU WANT TO TALK...
... YOU'LL NOW HEAR MY VOICE!

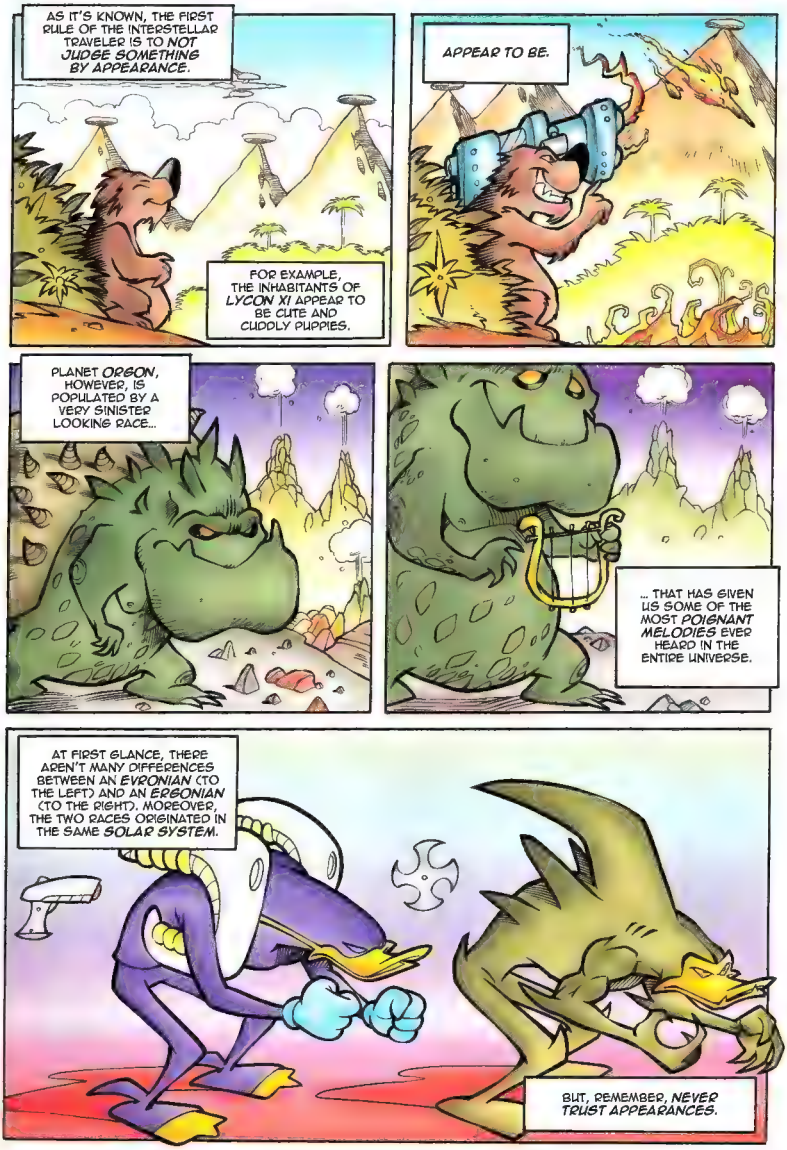


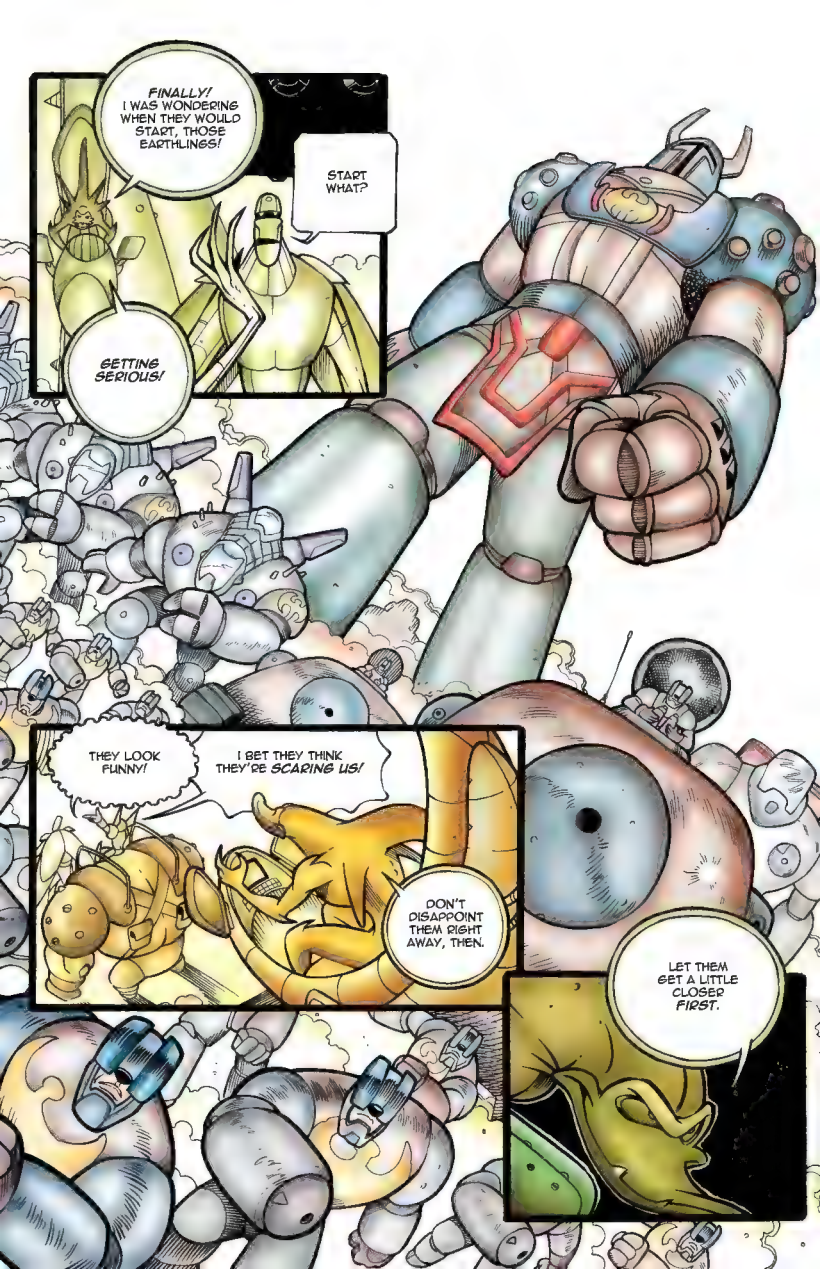

HOW IS HE?
NOTHING SERIOUS, YOU MANAGED TO BRING HIM HERE IN TIME.
AAAH...
WELCOME BACK WITH US, DUCK AVENGER.
THANKS TO THE RESCUE UNIT I SENT TO CARRY YOU BACK HERE THROUGH ENEMY LINES!
DARKO! HOW DID I GET HERE?
AND WHAT ABOUT THAT ROBOT?
WHEN THEY ARRIVED, HE HAD ALREADY FLOWN AWAY. HE EVIDENTLY THOUGH HE HAD ELIMINATED YOU.
HE WASN'T TOO WRONG, ACTUALLY.
BUT DON'T WORRY. SOON YOU'LL GET THE CHANCE TO TAKE REVENGE!
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?
GIVEN THAT YOUR GOOD MANNERS HAVE PROVEN TO BE USELESS, WE'LL DO IT MY WAY! WE ATTACK AT DAWN WITH ALL THE FORCES WE HAVE AVAILABLE!
YOU DON'T GET IT! YOU'LL ONLY MAKE THE SITUATION WORSE!
IN YOUR CONDITION IT'S UNHEALTHY TO GET AGITATED. I ADVISE YOU GO GET SOME REST.
BECAUSE TOMORROW WILL BE A TOUGH DAY!

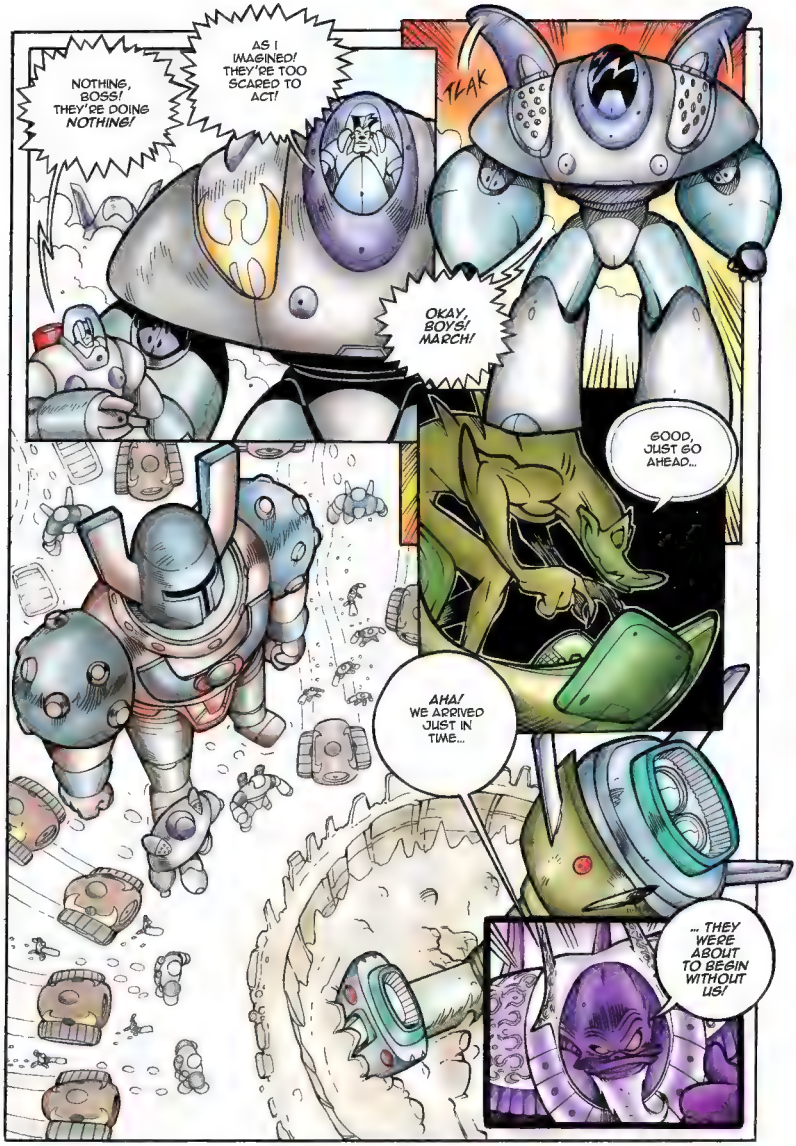
NOCTURNAL
INTERLUDE...

Z

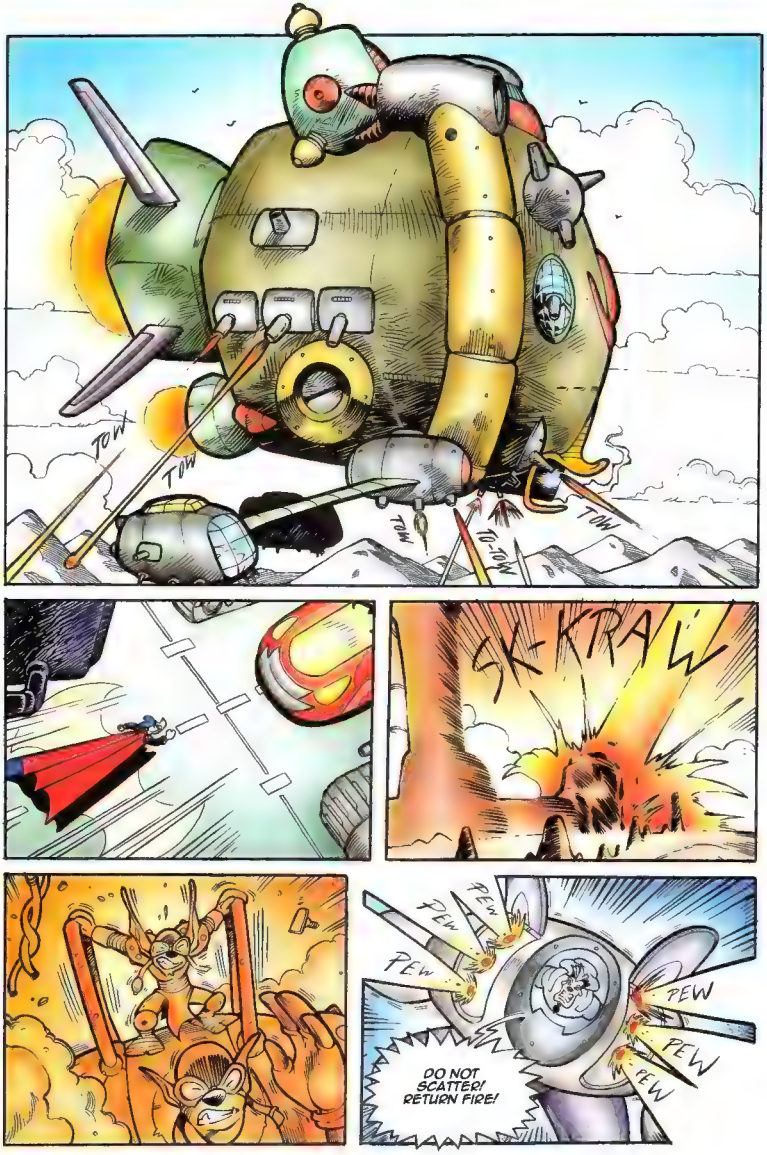

TODAY WE'LL SHOW THE ALIEN INVADERS HOW POWERFUL THE *STROKE OF THE AX* IS!
YEAH!
THIS TIME THERE WILL BE NO *FAILURES, TRUCES* OR *STRATEGIC RETREATS*. WE SHALL RETURN TO BASE ONLY WHEN WE SEE THE ENEMY FLEEING THROUGH THE STARS!
GLORY AWAITS US OUT THERE! LET'S GO GET IT!
GOOD LUCK, THEN.
LONG LIVE DARKO!
HO HO! I SUSPECT THAT YOU MAY NOT COME WITH US.
BRILLIANT INTUITION, *DARKO*.
SOMEONE TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE A HERO. BUT I GUESS HE WAS WRONG.
OR PERHAPS YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND...
... WHAT IT MEANS TO BE *A HERO!*


AS IT'S KNOWN, THE FIRST RULE OF THE INTERSTELLAR TRAVELER IS TO *NOT JUDGE SOMETHING BY APPEARANCE.*
FOR EXAMPLE, THE INHABITANTS OF *LYCON XI* APPEAR TO BE CUTE AND CUDDLY PUPPIES.
APPEAR TO BE.
PLANET *ORBON*, HOWEVER, IS POPULATED BY A VERY SINISTER LOOKING RACE...
... THAT HAS GIVEN US SOME OF THE MOST *POIGNANT MELODIES* EVER HEARD IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE.
AT FIRST GLANCE, THERE AREN'T MANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AN *EVRONIAN* (TO THE LEFT) AND AN *ERBONIAN* (TO THE RIGHT). MOREOVER, THE TWO RACES ORIGINATED IN THE SAME *SOLAR SYSTEM.*
BUT, REMEMBER, *NEVER TRUST APPEARANCES.*


FINALLY! I WAS WONDERING WHEN THEY WOULD START, THOSE EARTHLINGS!
START WHAT?
GETTING SERIOUS!
THEY LOOK FUNNY!
I BET THEY THINK THEY'RE SCARING US!
DON'T DISAPPOINT THEM RIGHT AWAY, THEN.
LET THEM GET A LITTLE CLOSER FIRST.

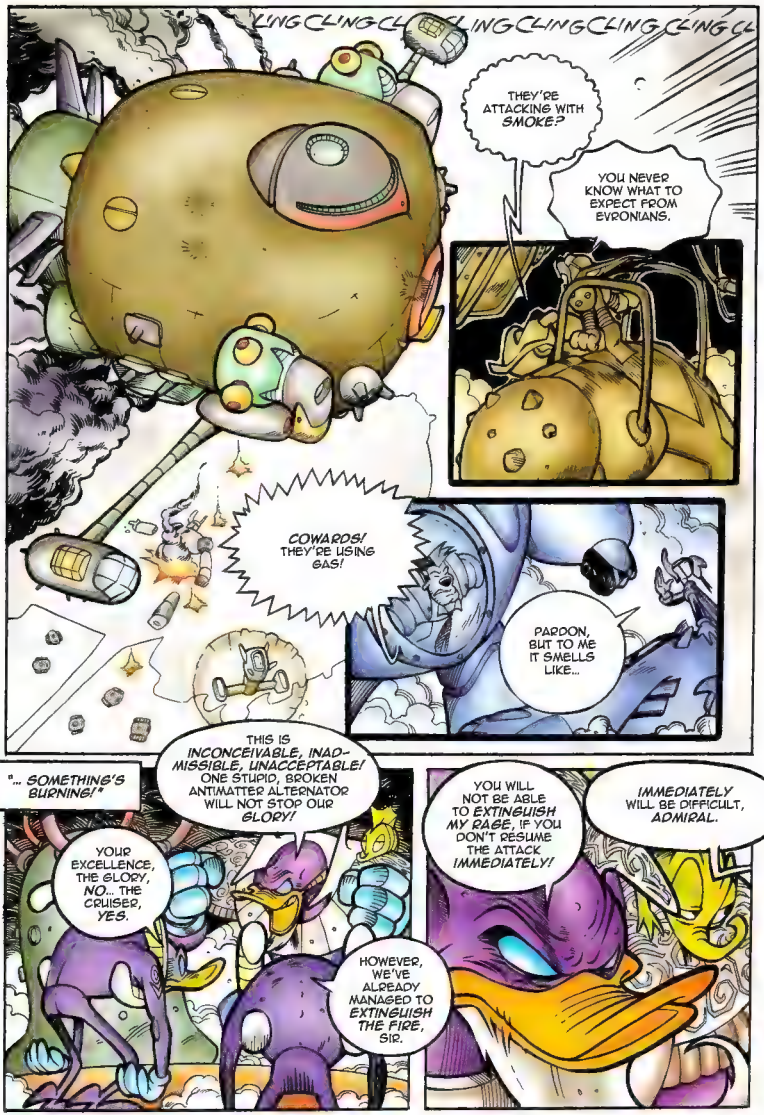

NOTHING, BOSS! THEY'RE DOING NOTHING!
AS I IMAGINED! THEY'RE TOO SCARED TO ACT!
TLAK
OKAY, BOYS! MARCH!
GOOD, JUST GO AHEAD...
AHA! WE ARRIVED JUST IN TIME...
... THEY WERE ABOUT TO BEGIN WITHOUT US!

WOOO

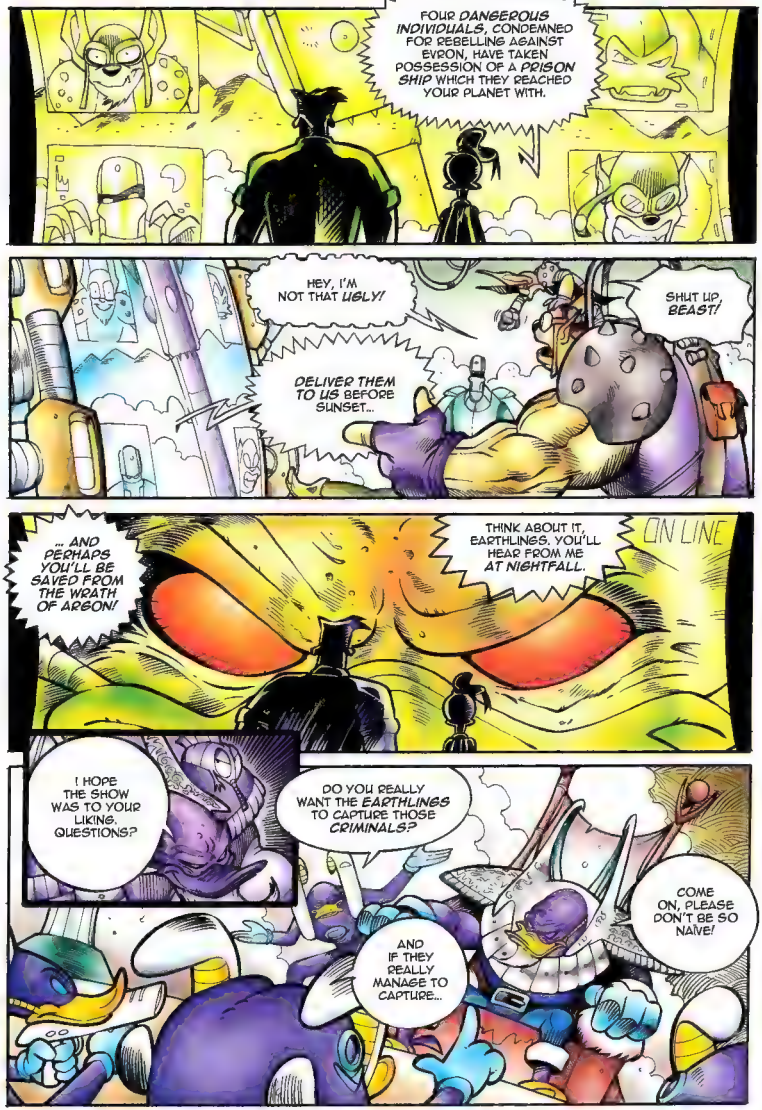

TOW
TOW
TOW
TO-TOW
TOW
SK-KRAW
PEW
PEW
PEW
PEW
PEW
PEW
DO NOT SCATTER! RETURN FIRE!

LOCKED ON!
HEY, LEAVE SOMETHING FOR ME TOO!
?
OOOH!
HELLO. AM I DISTURBING?
ZZZKROWW
I HOPE SO!
WOOOSH

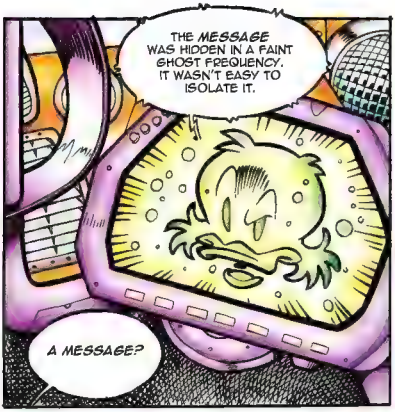
THESE GUNS OF YOURS AREN'T BAD, ONE! THEY EVEN MANAGED TO SCRATCH THE PAINT!
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW EXPENSIVE EVRONIAN BODY SHOPS ARE!
AND YOU ACHIEVED SOMETHING ELSE FROM IT.
AH, YES... LIKE WHAT?
WOOOM
TOW
TOW
TOW
YOU MANAGED TO GET NOTICED!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU'RE A CELEBRITY!
TOW
TOW
TOW
TOW
TOW
TOW
TOW
ELING
OH NO!
CLINGCLINGCLI


CLING CLING CLING CLING CLING CLING CLING CL
THEY'RE ATTACKING WITH SMOKE?
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT FROM EVRONIANS.
COWARDS! THEY'RE USING GAS!
PARDON, BUT TO ME IT SMELLS LIKE...
"... SOMETHING'S BURNING!"
THIS IS INCONCEIVABLE, INADMISSIBLE, UNACCEPTABLE! ONE STUPID, BROKEN ANTIMATTER ALTERNATOR WILL NOT STOP OUR GLORY!
YOUR EXCELLENCE, THE GLORY, NO... THE CRUISER, YES.
HOWEVER, WE'VE ALREADY MANAGED TO EXTINGUISH THE FIRE, SIR.
YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EXTINGUISH MY RAGE, IF YOU DON'T RESUME THE ATTACK IMMEDIATELY!
IMMEDIATELY WILL BE DIFFICULT, ADMIRAL.

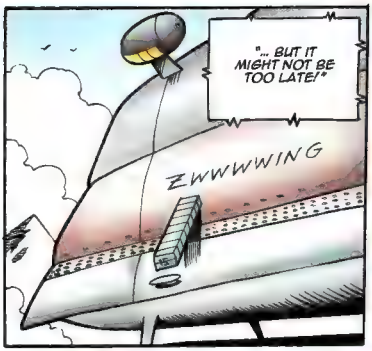
THE WHOLE SYSTEM'S GONE. I HAVE ALSO TRIED THE STANDARD PROCEDURE, BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH.
SO WHAT?
YOU NEED TO SUSPEND THE ATTACK FOR A FEW THOUSAND TIME UNITS WHILE I GET IT REPAIRED.
A CEASE-FIRE, THEN! YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK OF THAT?
THAT IT COULD BE A GOOD IDEA...
ON LINE
EARTHLINGS, THIS IS ADMIRAL ARGON SPEAKING TO YOU, FROM THE LEGENDARY CRUISER CENTURIAN...
... WHICH YOU ATTACKED, THUS CHALLENGING THE EVRONIAN EMPIRE!
A GESTURE THAT SHOULD BE PUNISHED WITH ANNIHILATION!
STILL, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU CAN DO TO EARN MY FORGIVENESS!
THAT'S NOT TRUE! WE ONLY REACTED TO...
SHHH! HE CAN'T HEAR YOU!

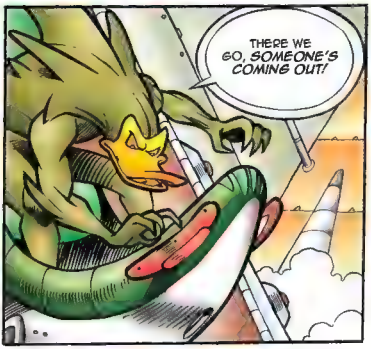

FOUR DANGEROUS INDIVIDUALS, CONDEMNED FOR REBELLING AGAINST EVRON, HAVE TAKEN POSSESSION OF A PRISON SHIP WHICH THEY REACHED YOUR PLANET WITH.
HEY, I'M NOT THAT UGLY!
SHUT UP, BEAST!
DELIVER THEM TO US BEFORE SUNSET...
... AND PERHAPS YOU'LL BE SAVED FROM THE WRATH OF ARGON!
THINK ABOUT IT, EARTHLINGS. YOU'LL HEAR FROM ME AT NIGHTFALL.
ON LINE
I HOPE THE SHOW WAS TO YOUR LIKING. QUESTIONS?
DO YOU REALLY WANT THE EARTHLINGS TO CAPTURE THOSE CRIMINALS?
COME ON, PLEASE DON'T BE SO NAIVE!
AND IF THEY REALLY MANAGE TO CAPTURE...

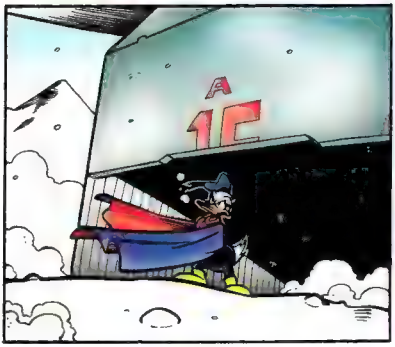
MY SPEECH WILL ONLY SERVE TO PUT THEM ONCE AGAIN AGAINST EACH OTHER! AS LONG AS THEY FIGHT EACH OTHER, THERE'S NO RISK OF THEM ALLYING AGAINST US.
AND WHEN WE FIND THEM TIRED AND WEAK...
"... THE TIME WILL COME TO TAKE OUR GLORY!"
I HOPE IT'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT! YOU CALLED ME WHILE I WAS TRYING TO CONVINCE DARKO TO NOT ATTACK!
IT'S NOT EASY TO EXPLAIN HOW A BELT CAN TALK!
OH, I'M SURE YOU COULD MAKE SOMETHING UP.
LISTEN!
FRRRZWRZWRRRXXWZZZYYYW
SOME SORT OF WHISTLING! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
GOOD QUESTION, DUCK AVENGER! I DID IN FACT ASK MYSELF THAT LAST NIGHT WHEN I PICKED UP THIS RADIO SIGNAL FROM THE PRISON SHIP.
CAM 1
CHIP 2


THE MESSAGE WAS HIDDEN IN A FAINT GHOST FREQUENCY. IT WASN'T EASY TO ISOLATE IT.
A MESSAGE?

YEAH. IF WE WERE ABLE TO LISTEN TO IT EARLIER, THINGS WOULD HAVE GONE DIFFERENTLY...


"... BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE TOO LATE!"
ZWWWWING


THERE WE GO, SOMEONE'S COMING OUT!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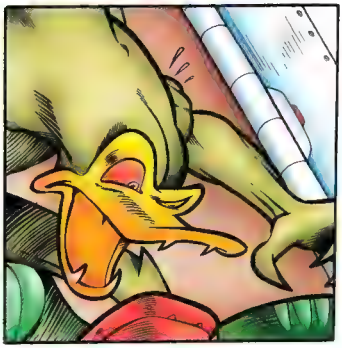
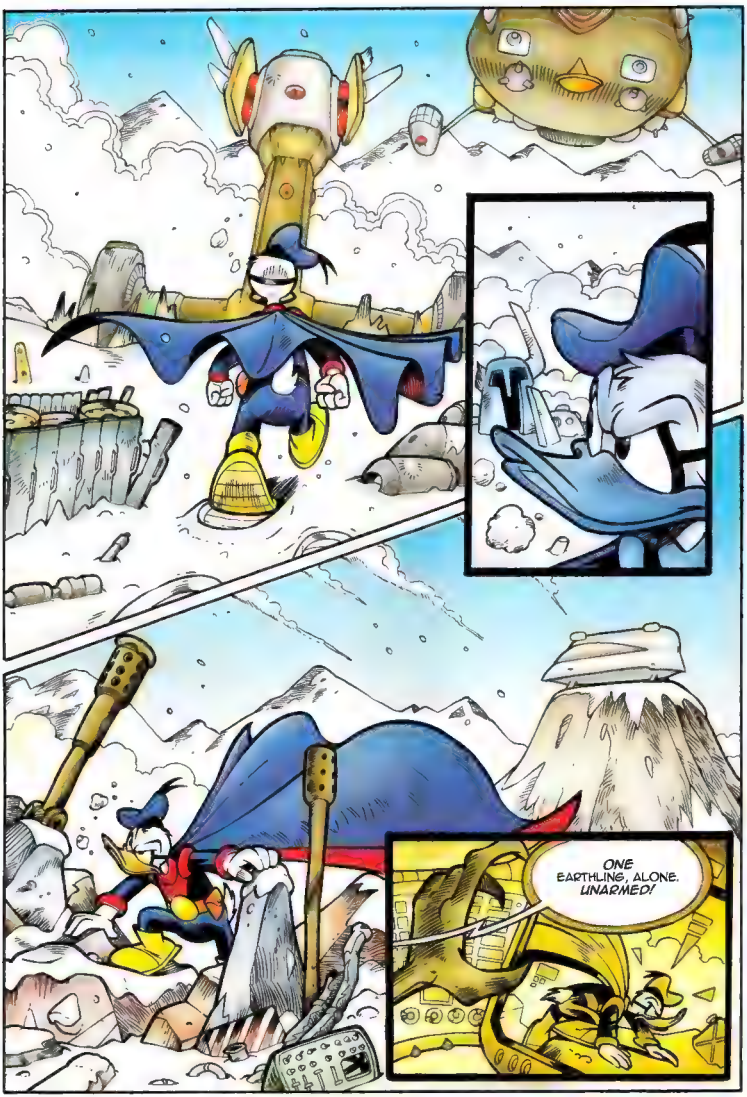
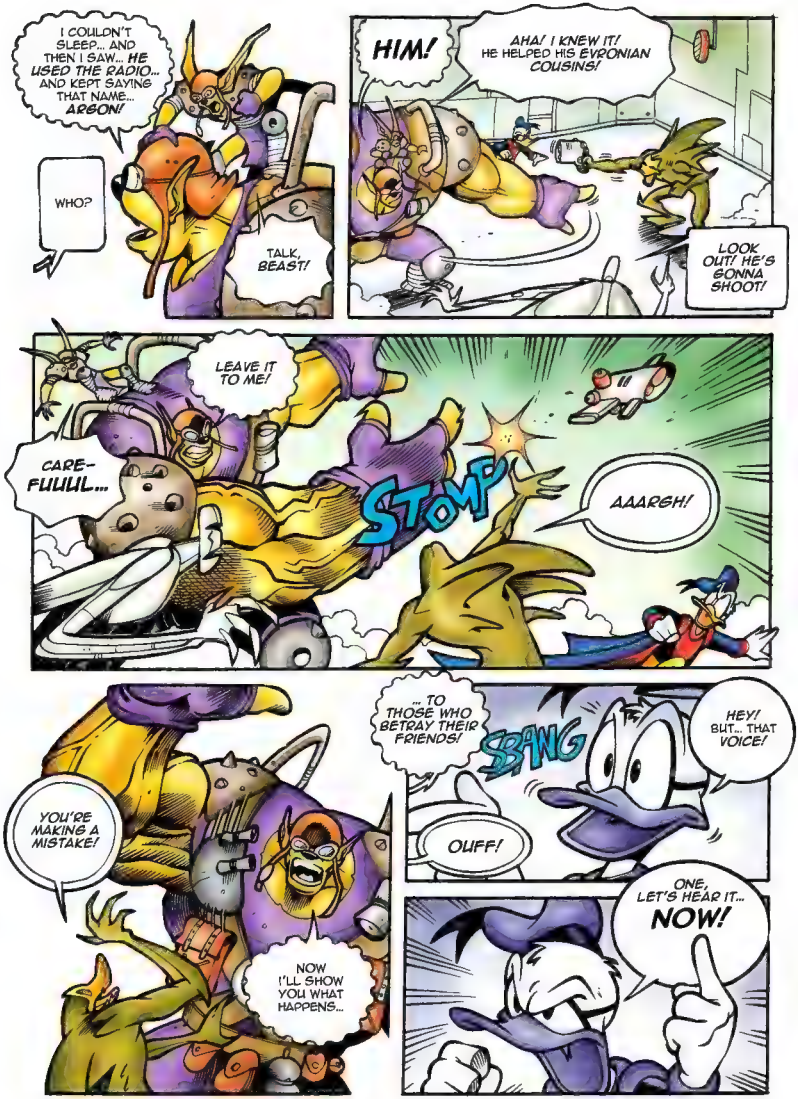



ONE EARTHLING, ALONE. UNARMED!

HE MUST HAVE A SCREW LOOSE.
ELIMINATING HIM WILL BE CHILD'S PLAY!
NO!
WE DON'T ATTACK THE DEFENSELESS. WE ARE NOT EVRONIANS.
WHIIIISH
GOOD LUCK, DUCK AVENGER. I HOPE YOU GET OUT OF THERE IN ONE PIECE.
THIS PLANET NEEDS ITS HEROES!

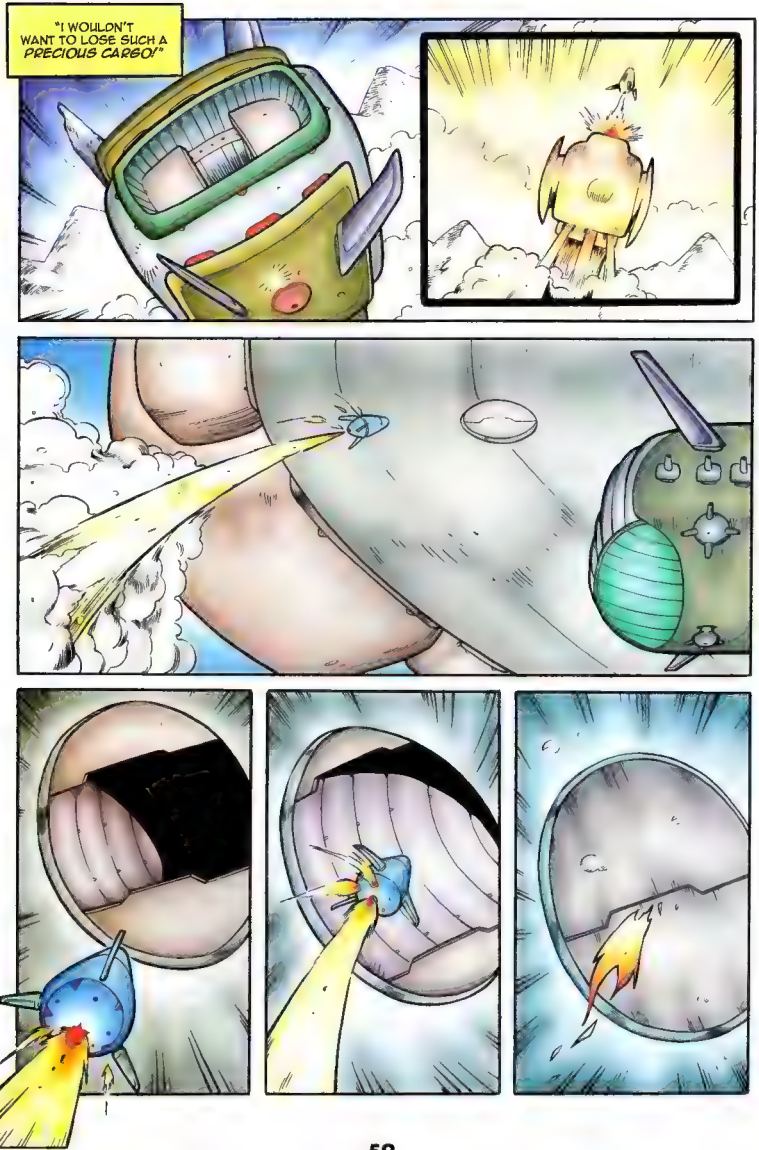
SAY THAT ONE MORE TIME, EARTHLING.
YOU KNOW, WE CYBERNETIC ORGANISMS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CURIOUS OF WHAT YOU "ORGANICS" CALL FANTASY!
I DION'T TAKE THE RISK OF COMING HERE UNARMED TO TELL YOU A FAIRYTALE!
ONE OF YOU IS A TRAITOR! AND IF HE ISN'T REVEALED NOW, IT WILL BE TOO LATE!
ABSURD!
WELL THEN, CAN YOU EXPLAIN HOW THAT EVRONIAN WARSHIP ARRIVED AT THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME?
YOU EXPLAIN, WISE GUY! I'M ALL... EARS! HI HI!
A RADIO MESSAGE WAS SENT FROM HERE TO ADMIRAL ARGON, WITH THE COORDINATES OF...
WAIT A MINUTE! I REMEMBER NOW...

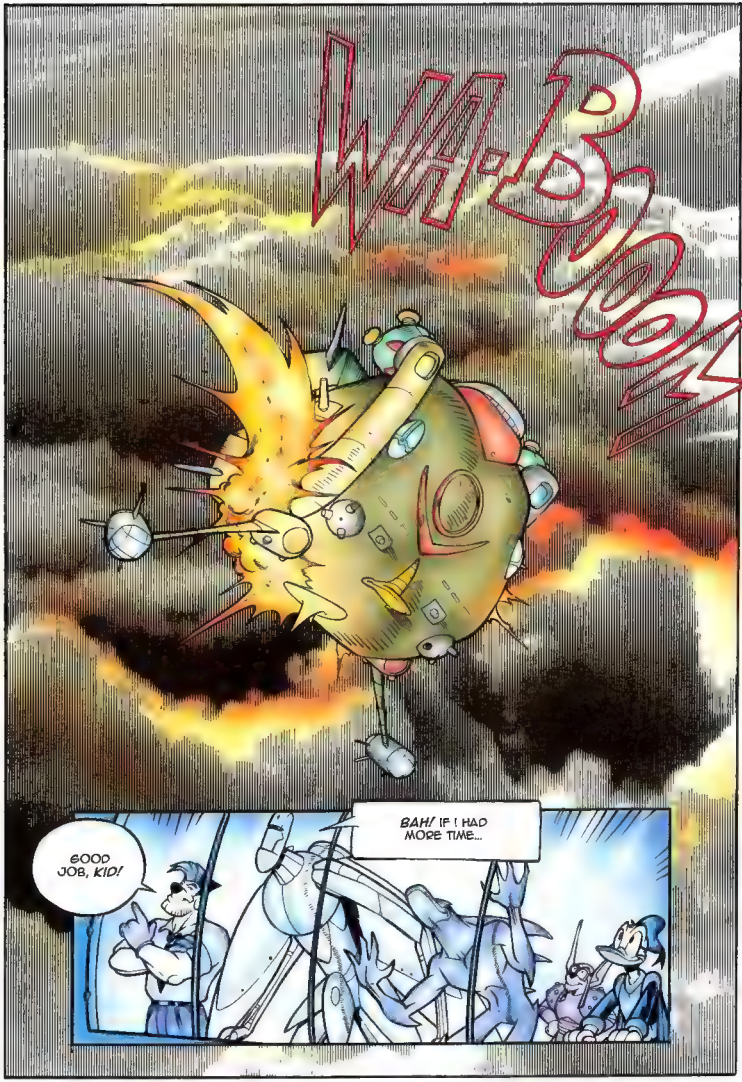

I COULDN'T SLEEP... AND THEN I SAW... HE USED THE RADIO... AND KEPT SAYING THAT NAME... ARGON!
WHO?
TALK, BEAST!
HIM!
AHA! I KNEW IT! HE HELPED HIS EVRONIAN COUSINS!
LOOK OUT! HE'S GONNA SHOOT!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
CARE-FUUUL...
STOMP
AAARGH!
... TO THOSE WHO BETRAY THEIR FRIENDS!
SBANG
HEY! BUT... THAT VOICE!
OUFF!
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE!
NOW I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT HAPPENS...
ONE, LET'S HEAR IT... NOW!

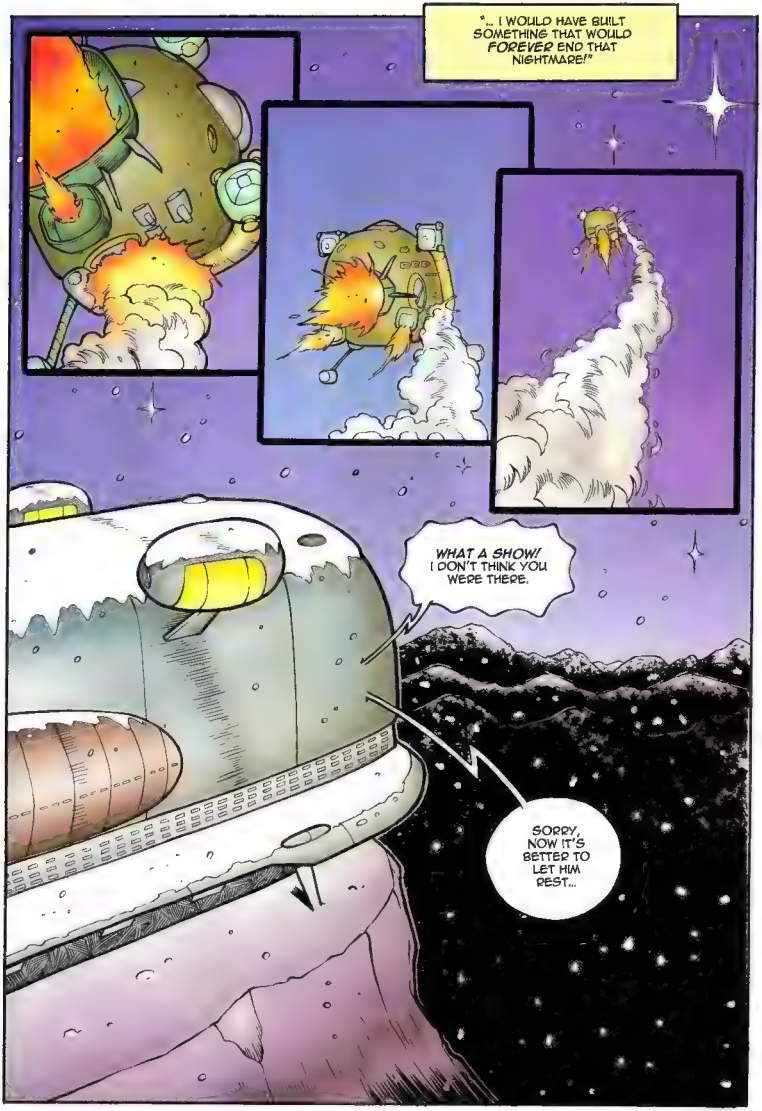
EVERYTHING WENT AS PLANNED, ADMIRAL ARGON!
EEEH?
THAT'S YOUR VOICE, KURG!
YOU'RE THE TRAITOR!
YES, BUT YOU DISCOVERED IT...
... TOO LATE!
SKRASH
PAUSE IT, ONE! I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH!
AAAH!
HANDS OFF, EARTHLING! IT DOESN'T BELONG TO YOU!
STOP

COMING HERE WAS A BIG MISTAKE, YOU KNOW?
YES... FOR EVERYONE.
WAIT, KURG!
YOU DON'T WANT TO ABANDON...

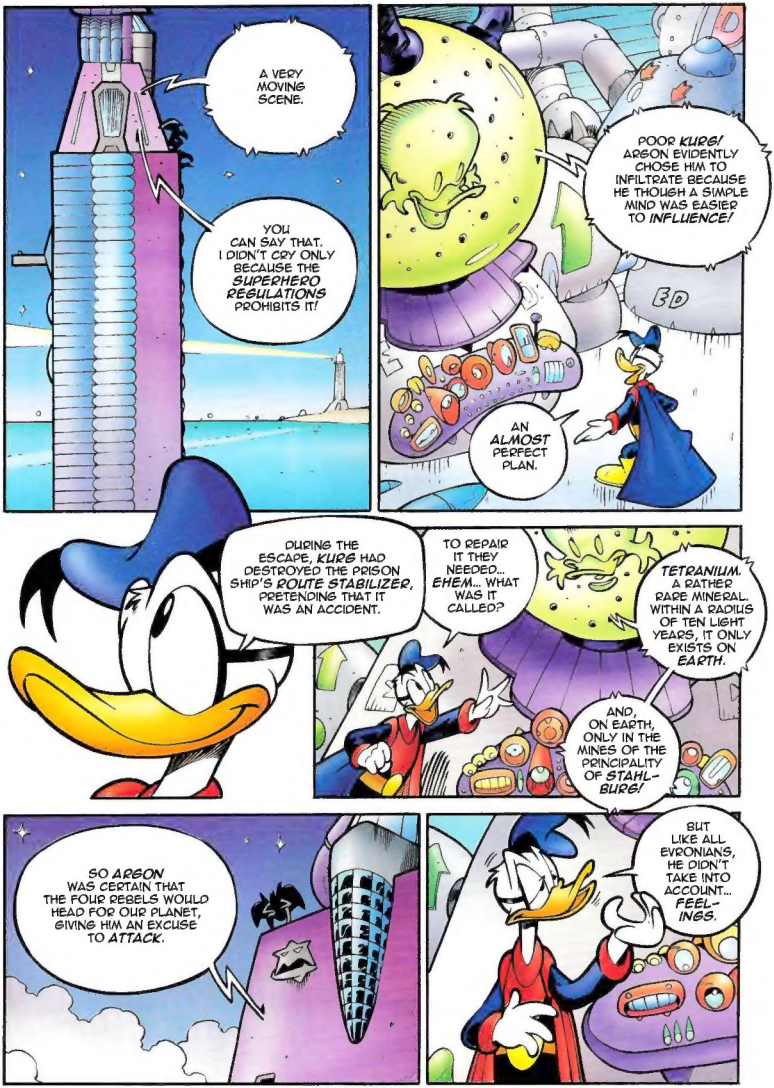
... AN OLD FRIEND?
EXCUSE ME, YOUR EXCELLENCE. I THINK THIS IS IMPORTANT.
I HOPE SO, SOLDIER.
WE'VE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM OUR INFILTRATOR. IT SEEMS THAT HE WAS DISCOVERED!
THAT ANIMAL! I FELT THAT HE WOULD GIVE ME PROBLEMS!
FORTUNATELY HE MANAGED TO INCAPACITATE THE OTHERS.
OH, I GUESS HIS MUSCLES COMPENSATED FOR THE ABSENCE OF A BRAIN.
TELL HIM TO ENTER THE ESCAPE POD, AND ALSO THROW IN HIS COMPANIONS. AND THEN BRING THEM HERE WITH THE REMOTE CONTROL!

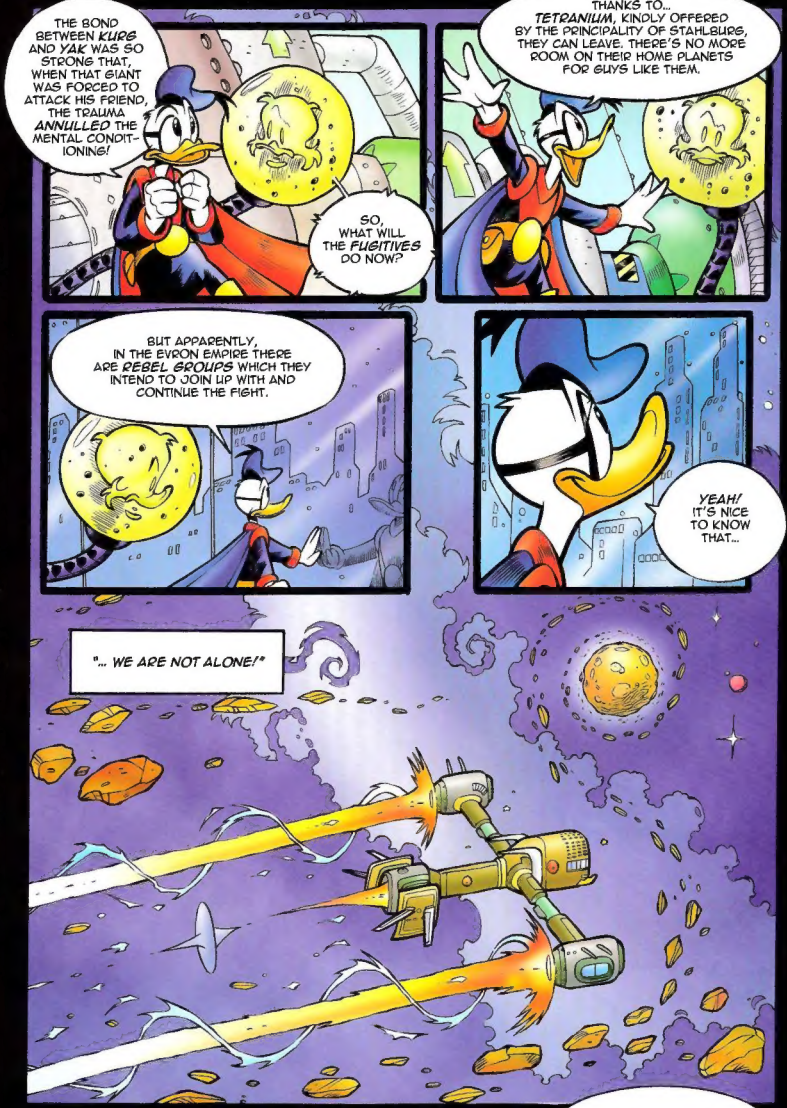

"I WOULDN'T WANT TO LOSE SUCH A PRECIOUS CARGO!"


WHA-BOOOM
BAH! IF I HAD MORE TIME...
GOOD JOB, KID!


"... I WOULD HAVE BUILT SOMETHING THAT WOULD *FOREVER* END THAT NIGHTMARE!"
WHAT A SHOW! I DON'T THINK YOU WERE THERE.
SORRY, NOW IT'S BETTER TO LET HIM REST...

YOUR FRIEND IS STILL IN SHOCK. THE MENTAL CONDITIONING HE WENT THROUGH MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE DEEP.
DID YOU HEAR? I HAVE TO GO, BEAST!
BUDDY
GET WELL SOON. YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE WALKING!
WAIT... I HAVE TO SAY... ONE THING...
SNIFF
THANKS, BUDDY.


A VERY MOVING SCENE.
YOU CAN SAY THAT. I DIDN'T CRY ONLY BECAUSE THE SUPERHERO REGULATIONS PROHIBITS IT!
POOR KURG! ARSON EVIDENTLY CHOSE HIM TO INFILTRATE BECAUSE HE THOUGH A SIMPLE MIND WAS EASIER TO INFLUENCE!
AN ALMOST PERFECT PLAN.
DURING THE ESCAPE, KURG HAD DESTROYED THE PRISON SHIP'S ROUTE STABILIZER, PRETENDING THAT IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
TO REPAIR IT THEY NEEDED... EHEM... WHAT WAS IT CALLED?
TETRANIUM. A RATHER RARE MINERAL. WITHIN A RADIUS OF TEN LIGHT YEARS, IT ONLY EXISTS ON EARTH.
AND, ON EARTH, ONLY IN THE MINES OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF STAHLBURG!
SO ARSON WAS CERTAIN THAT THE FOUR REBELS WOULD HEAD FOR OUR PLANET, GIVING HIM AN EXCUSE TO ATTACK.
BUT LIKE ALL EVRONIANS, HE DIDN'T TAKE INTO ACCOUNT... FEELINGS.


THE BOND BETWEEN KURE AND YAK WAS SO STRONG THAT, WHEN THAT GIANT WAS FORCED TO ATTACK HIS FRIEND, THE TRAUMA ANNULLED THE MENTAL CONDITIONING!
SO, WHAT WILL THE FUGITIVES DO NOW?
THANKS TO... TETRANIUM, KINDLY OFFERED BY THE PRINCIPALITY OF STAHLBURG, THEY CAN LEAVE. THERE'S NO MORE ROOM ON THEIR HOME PLANETS FOR GUYS LIKE THEM.
BUT APPARENTLY, IN THE EVRON EMPIRE THERE ARE REBEL GROUPS WHICH THEY INTEND TO JOIN UP WITH AND CONTINUE THE FIGHT.
YEAH! IT'S NICE TO KNOW THAT...
"... WE ARE NOT ALONE!"
THE END